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STICK 'EM UP!

**YOUR FOUR PULL-OUT POSTERS BEGIN ON P47, INCLUDING...
BIANCA BEAUCHAMP! LATEX FETISH! ITALIAN HORROR COMIC!**





THE GRINDER

Your monthly mash-up of NEWS, VIEWS, OOZE and OOHS!

RAYNA TERROR'S **BRONZE BUTTI!**

Bizarre cover model gets her chocolate starfish
cast by offbeat London artists...





RAYNA TERROR, THE LUSCIOUS altmodel who set the cover of *Bizarre* 222 alight, has had her bumhole cast in bronze... and *Bizarre* was there to see it happening.

The bespoke brown eye casts are the brainchild of London artists Magnus Irvine and Michael Ritzema, who formed the company Edible Anus in 2004 to offer a variety of eccentric products such as crystal poop chutes, pop-up poo greeting cards, and the delicious Belgian chocolate starfish that *Bizarre* gave away at its Bizarre LIVE! events in 2010.

Emboldened by support from stars including Stephen Fry, Ana Matronic from the Scissor Sisters, TV host Graham Norton and celebrity blogger Perez Hilton, Magnus and Michael have begun offering individual anus castings, where you can have your own

bunghole – or the back door of a loved one – cast in bronze or another precious metal as an *objet d'art*, and the ultimate talking point at dinner parties.

To celebrate their latest o-ring offering, Magnus and Michael invited *Bizarre* to a studio in East London to have its own ham flower preserved for prosperity. But rather than offering our sorry arsehole to the oddball artists, we decided to rope in *Bizarre* cover model Rayna Terror instead...

"Getting my brown eye cast in bronze is not something I'd ever considered," Rayna told *Bizarre* before the casting began. "However, I'm not sure where my 'line' is, and I guess I'm doing this to find out if I have a line. Getting my buttock hole cast is a little random, but I couldn't turn the opportunity down! I like experiencing new things, even if they're weird things – I don't want to get old and regret not getting my butt bronzed."

START OF THE DIRT ROAD

"Our edible anuses started as an art project," Magnus tells *Bizarre*. "It all kicked off around 1990, when I came up with the idea of doing a sculpture of an anus in chocolate. I'm not sure

MAIN PHOTOS
ROWAN MURRAY

exactly where the idea came from, but it seemed to make some sort of poetic sense."

"The first time I ever cast an anus, I used my own," Magnus continues. "I waited until my wife went out and my son had gone to school, then I went into the kitchen, mixed up the casting solution, took my trousers off and put my knees on either side of my head. →

RAYNA'S BUTT CASTING

To see a free video of Rayna Terror getting her bumhole cast by Magnus, stay tuned to **Riot TV**
YouTube.com/watchriottv



"I poured the solution onto my bum, but it ran past my nuts and into my face. It was a disaster. Not long after that, I was fortunate enough to meet someone who allowed me to cast her anus. That was my first successful casting, but there have been some interesting failures along the way. The hardest thing is getting the casting solution out of your pubic hair if it sets!

"I first exhibited the chocolate anus at an open studio art show, which is where I met Michael. Michael reckoned the anuses were something that could become popular, and that's where the business started. Without him, I'd just have a box of rotting chocolates I couldn't exhibit!

"But the edible anuses did rather well, and a few shops picked them up. We experimented



with presenting them in various ways, and eventually came up with a box of three – and that's how we sell them today. Then we decided to try selling them in precious metals... so the edible anus became the inedible anus!"



LUXURY PRISON PURSE

While Magnus and Michael's chocolate anuses cost £2395 for five boxes via Edibleanus.com, their bespoke bronze Garys are a luxury item, with a price tag that reflects the skill and artistry that goes into each unique sculpture (contact them directly for more details using the email address at the end of this story). But for people who have everything, these bronzed balloon knots are a must-have.

"The sort of people who'll buy our bespoke anuses are rich and sophisticated – that's our intended market," says Magnus. "The bespoke service isn't available to poor people, and our chocolate versions are what you might call the peoples' anuses. For those who can afford them, we're negotiable as to where the casting takes place – we can do home castings, we can do it on a beach, in shopping malls... It doesn't matter.

But after we make the cast you'll be able to get your anus made in metal, glass, gold, silver or any material you choose – you could even have it diamond encrusted."

But while a variety of famous names have already purchased bronze bumholes from Magnus and Michael, the pair haven't made original casts of any celebrity Hershey Highways. But Magnus harbours ambitions to cast star growlers in the future...

"I'm not sure which stars would like to have their bumholes cast," he says. "John Humphrys from Radio 4 – that would be good. Or Rolf Harris! We could do Rolf Harris' anus and mass produce them. That would be excellent! My dream anus would be Patrick Moore, but he's dead now. But if we could cast the anus of his fat corpse, that would be marvellous. It would be like a star, and I know he liked that sort of thing. We could make loads of luminous ones and put them on the ceiling – that would be a great tribute to Patrick, I think. Sadly, none of our celebrity clients have sent us photos of how they use their bronze anuses, so I'm not sure how they're displayed in their homes."

But what about Rayna? What's she planning to do with her bronze pooper when it comes back from the foundry?

"I think I'm going to put it on my mantelpiece, along with my dog's testicles," she smiles. "I had my dog castrated not so long ago, and asked my vet if I could keep the testicles – they're technically mine, after all. They're in my freezer at the moment, and I need to get them made into a wet mount. But when my bronze butthole arrives, my testicles won't be lonely."

To find out more about Magnus and Michael's products, check out Edibleanus.com, and email Mike@edibleanus.com to find out more about their bespoke castings. To see a video of Rayna's bumhole casting, stay tuned to YouTube.com/watchriottv

"Getting my brown eye cast is something I'd never considered!"



I must remember to give it a good wipe...

SEVEN STEPS TO BUM HEAVEN

Rayna's butt casting took around 30 minutes – and she a great time! To explain what happens, we'll let Magnus talk you through the procedure...



"People are normally a little worried about the casting," Magnus says. "But in my experience it's not difficult and completely painless, and it can be quite enjoyable occasion. It's an event, and something the person being

cast will remember for a long while. In their old age, when they're in a retirement home, they can turn to the person next to them, tell them about their anus casting, and be sure he or she hasn't had a similar experience!"

5 "We lay the alginate mould on a flat surface, with the cast of the anus pointing upwards, and build a wall of clay around it. Into this clay moat we pour plaster of Paris, and leave it to harden around the alginate cast. When the plaster is hard we turn it upside down and remove the alginate, and then you're left with a plaster mould. The alginate is the 'negative' of the real anus, if you like, but we turn it back into the 'positive' with the plaster."



6 "We can then cut the plaster mould into the exact shape we want for the end product. What we're after is a perfectly shaped anus, so we tend up clean it up with a pin to remove any obstructions, air bubbles and so on. Once we have a mould the anus can be cast in any material. You could cast it in earwax if you wanted to."



7 "Once we have the perfect anus, we send it to a casting foundry, which will then make a wax copy. This wax copy is dusted with fine sand, and then covered in molten metal. The molten metal burns and evaporates the wax, leaving a metal anus behind. This sculpture is a little messy and needs filing down, but then it's polished and you're left with a perfect, shiny bronze anus."



1 "When someone turns up for a casting I explain what's going to happen, then we get right down to the activity. The first step is the application of Vaseline by the subject to their own anus. You don't want to put a great glob of Vaseline up your bum because this would block the ruching of the anus, which this is the most interesting thing about the finished product. When the Vaseline is applied, we ask the subject to lie down on a massage table and stick their bottom in the air, so their anus is pointing towards the ceiling."



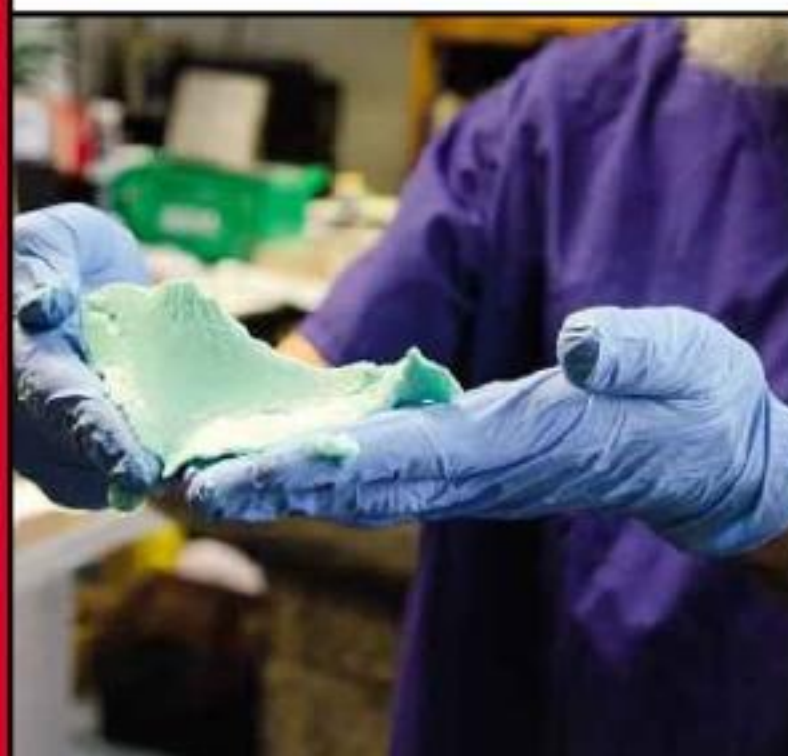
2 "When the subject is in position I mix up alginate, which is a casting material that's used by dentists to make moulds of teeth."



3 "While the subject holds their position, I spread the alginate onto their backside, and push it in a little with a spatula. The alginate hardens quickly, and as it dries I push it in to the depths of the anus, forcing the mixture into the wiggly bits."



4 "When the alginate is applied, the subject has to stay in position for around two or three minutes, after which point the alginate is hard but floppy, and easy to remove. This is completely painless."



BLOOD, SWEAT AND INK!

Bizarre writer brings her feature to life in YouTube documentary

IF YOU'RE A REGULAR *BIZARRE* READER, you'll already know the name Emma Mendes da Costa...

Emma has written regularly for *Bizarre* magazine over the years, and has penned features on tattoo studios, compiled lists of weird facts for 'The Grinder' section, and has even written about getting a microchip inserted under her skin, which identifies her as a Chihuahua. In fact, Emma has become such a vital part of *Bizarre* that we've honoured her this

month in the 'Bizarre Readers Rock' feature, which you can find on p56.

In *Bizarre 218*, Emma wrote a fantastic feature about tattoos in the UK Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) scene, where she interviewed some of the sport's most fearsome inked warriors, including Charlie Leary, David Lee, Tolly Plested and Colin 'Freakshow' Fletcher. And because her feature was so damned good, the production team at Riot TV (Youtube.com/watchriottv) have given



her the opportunity to bring her words to life on film.

"It was really exciting to work on this short documentary," Emma tells *Bizarre*. "I'm hugely passionate about tattoos and MMA – which is why I pitched the feature idea to *Bizarre* in the first place – and it's also thrilling to work as a film producer as this is something I've never done before. Given the small budget I had to work with there were fewer helicopters and drugs than I expected as a big shot movie producer, but you've got to start somewhere, I guess!"

The film, which is coming soon to the Riot TV YouTube channel, features interviews with MMA fighters David Lee, George Green, Charlie Leary and Alex Montagnani, and features bone-crunching footage of the warriors in action, plus interviews where they talk viewers through their collections of ink.

"I was delighted with the *Bizarre* feature, but the film really captures the energy of the sport and the passion of the fighters," Emma says. "I think MMA is on the cusp of mainstream acceptance, and it feels like we're slightly ahead of the game with this film. Once the sport hits the big time, the fighters featured in the documentary will become big stars – and it's great to know that *Bizarre* and Riot TV had the belief, balls and foresight to take a chance on this idea."

To see the video Emma produced, stay tuned to Youtube.com/watchriottv, and make sure to subscribe to the channel for more weird videos



THE RESET ROOM

Bizarre chats with tattoo-removal expert, Wayne Joyce, about a new generation of laser technology that's set to change the body art industry forever

FOR MANY PEOPLE, REMOVING AN unwanted tattoo to make way for new body art is an appealing prospect. *Bizarre* caught up with Wayne at The Reset Room, located in The Circle tattoo studio in London, to chat about the latest laser tattoo removal technology, and to have our tiny minds blown by his knowledge about obliterating ink...

What's the difference between your new machine and the standard laser removal technology?

The PicoSure fires a much faster beam which means there's more of a photomechanical effect, which results in less long-term damage to the skin. The new picosecond aesthetic laser smashes ink particles into small fragments, which your natural immune system breaks down and metabolises. Quite often, you'll hear a snapping sound, which is the photoacoustic effect.

Everybody knows laser treatment hurts, but can you describe the sensation?

Most people liken it to being pinged by an elastic band, mixed with the sensation of cooking oil spitting from a hot pan. The PicoSure is touted as being less painful because it feels sharper, whereas standard machines can feel like a bone-cracking thud. There's no sugar-coating it – tattoo removal hurts, it's expensive, and there are risks – but it fucking works. We've got tricks up our sleeve to help you deal with the pain, though, including a cryo-device which is a sterilised cold air machine to help numb the skin and reduce the amount of thermal damage.

How will the tattoo look after a session?

Some clients can expect to see whitened areas, which is what we call 'frosting' or 'blanching'. As humans are 70 per cent water, the thermal reaction causes steam. In time, the whitening dissipates, which is the steam emanating from your skin. Your tattoo may become fairly red and swollen for anything between two days to two weeks afterwards.

Is there a way to find out how many sessions a tattoo removal can take?

Whether you go to the best dermatologist in the world or a backstreet hack in Camden Town, it's always an educated guess as to how many sessions it's going to take. That's



why we do such an intensive consultation process, asking whether people have any known skin problems or immune deficiencies, and it's why we suggest doing a test patch. They're not essential, but they help to assess how the skin might react.

BELOW *Bizarre's* Mandatron sought help from Wayne to remove a tribal shaped regret. At the first session, her tattoo was seven years old and was treated with standard laser technology



October 2007: Mandatron's ink, one year old



September 2013: One day after session with standard laser technology



June 2014: Hours after laser removal with PicoSure



November 2014: Five months after PicoSure treatment

While the science behind the technology remains constant, every single tattoo and individual has variables that may effect the dispersal rate of the ink – the age of the tattoo, its density, the colour, the location and unknown ingredients of the ink are all factors.

How rare is this machine? Are they hard to find in the UK?

There aren't more than seven PicoSure machines in the UK, but the Reset Room had the first one in central London. This machine costs around £250,000 – that's more than a flat in the capital!

We're not just limited to tattoo removal, either – we're going to start doing facial rejuvenation procedures to help reduce acne scars, chickenpox scars, fine lines and stretch marks.

You're a fountain of knowledge! How do you know all this stuff?

Sadly, this sort of vital information isn't provided to the public – high-street "specialists" couldn't give a shit about their clients and rarely explain the process. My knowledge comes from studying courses, spending time at other clinics and doing a lot of my own research. I've also gained invaluable experience over the past five years and I'm constantly learning. **Amanda Coban**

Find out more at Resetroom.com, see before and after pictures and watch videos posted by Wayne at [Instagram.com/discardedad](https://www.instagram.com/discardedad). For more advice, always contact a professional - email Wayne@resetroom.com

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PICTURE: CHRISSY SPARKS AT
DOLLHOUSE PHOTOGRAPHY



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Bizarre's own **Mandatron** loves nothing better than greasing her circuits, pressing her buttons and blowing a fuse over your crazy photos, perverted art and impressive ink. Send in your stuff now, and serve your friendly neighbourhood robot!

Mandatron's favourite submissions will make it onto these hallowed pages!

BIZARRE

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MAKING A STAND

I'd like to share my experience of discrimination against my tattoos following a story that went viral...

Recently, while shopping at a large retail chain, a customer tutted at me for no obvious reason. When I mentioned it to the cashier who was serving me at the time, the woman said she wasn't surprised because my tattoos were "disgusting".

I can't remember her exact words, but she questioned why I'd choose to mutilate myself, and thought I was weird for enduring the pain of getting inked.

I was so upset by the way this woman spoke to me – particularly as she's working in a public-facing role, which demands good customer service skills – that I left in tears, then spoke with a store manager about their rude employee.

According to newspaper reports, the woman quit her job after being told she'd face disciplinary action.

Sadly, the abuse didn't end there. Following this press coverage, a local newspaper printed a story which was

hostile towards me. So far, my story has attracted online trolls of the worst nature, and I've had vile threats made against my children and my business (I have owned a tattoo shop in Bournemouth for over 30 years with my husband John, below, who did the majority of my designs). Now I've decided to take the matter to the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) and possibly further if necessary.

After speaking with my friends – one of whom is a final year law student – I've decided to campaign to raise awareness of discrimination against different subcultures. I've started an online petition to take to Parliament, which demands that discrimination of this nature is made illegal, an idea that's backed by the Sophie Lancaster Foundation.

Please take a moment to sign the petition at Change.org/p/the-law-commission-review-non-discrimination-legislation.

Natasha Henson, via email



PICTURE: JASON PERKINS PHOTOGRAPHY



WELL DONE...
YOU WIN
NOTHING!





TOE-TAL RECOVERY

Ten years ago, I had a stroke at the age of 24. This affected one of my toes quite badly, which changed from a claw toe into a hammer toe (above). Doctors had to break it four times to try and fix the problem! Surgeons added pins, but after a while I'd had enough and asked them to cut it off (see pic on right).

Since then I've taken up burlesque, fire eating and body burning. I do all sorts of random things – you name it, I've tried it! I perform under the name

Cinnamon Cheeks (pictured above, right) alongside my partner in crime, Flossie Fru Fru (that's her on the left) – together, we are Flossie Cheeks! and we regularly host burlesque-themed fundraising shows, particularly for the charity Stroke Association.

At one of these events I performed a dance which began with me sitting in a wheelchair. I dedicated the routine to the nurses who looked after me in hospital, to show them how far I've come



in my recovery. Just because I'm disabled doesn't mean that I'm not sexy or should be stuck indoors!

Anna Higgs, via email

CREATURE FEATURE

I'm an alt. male model and a big fan of your magazine. I've previously worked with *Bizarre* cover star, Shelly d'Inferno, for alt. clothing company Spiral Direct, and I hope to work with more fantastic alt. models in 2015.

This shot (below) by Stephen Austin was his own concept, which was developed alongside the hair and make-up artist, Jade Styles. The inspiration came from beautiful creatures, and what lies in the depths of the woods. The image expresses enchantment and fantasy.

I enjoy shoots that are different and odd – to stay alternative within

an alternative industry is challenging. You can easily drift into the ordinary, so I try to take note of what has been frequently portrayed to develop my own spin on things.

I also love unleashing my alter ego, and I've created my own style which I call 'sophisticated punk'. Hopefully you'll see more of me this year!

Jun Khanbekian, via email

STAND TO ATTENTION!

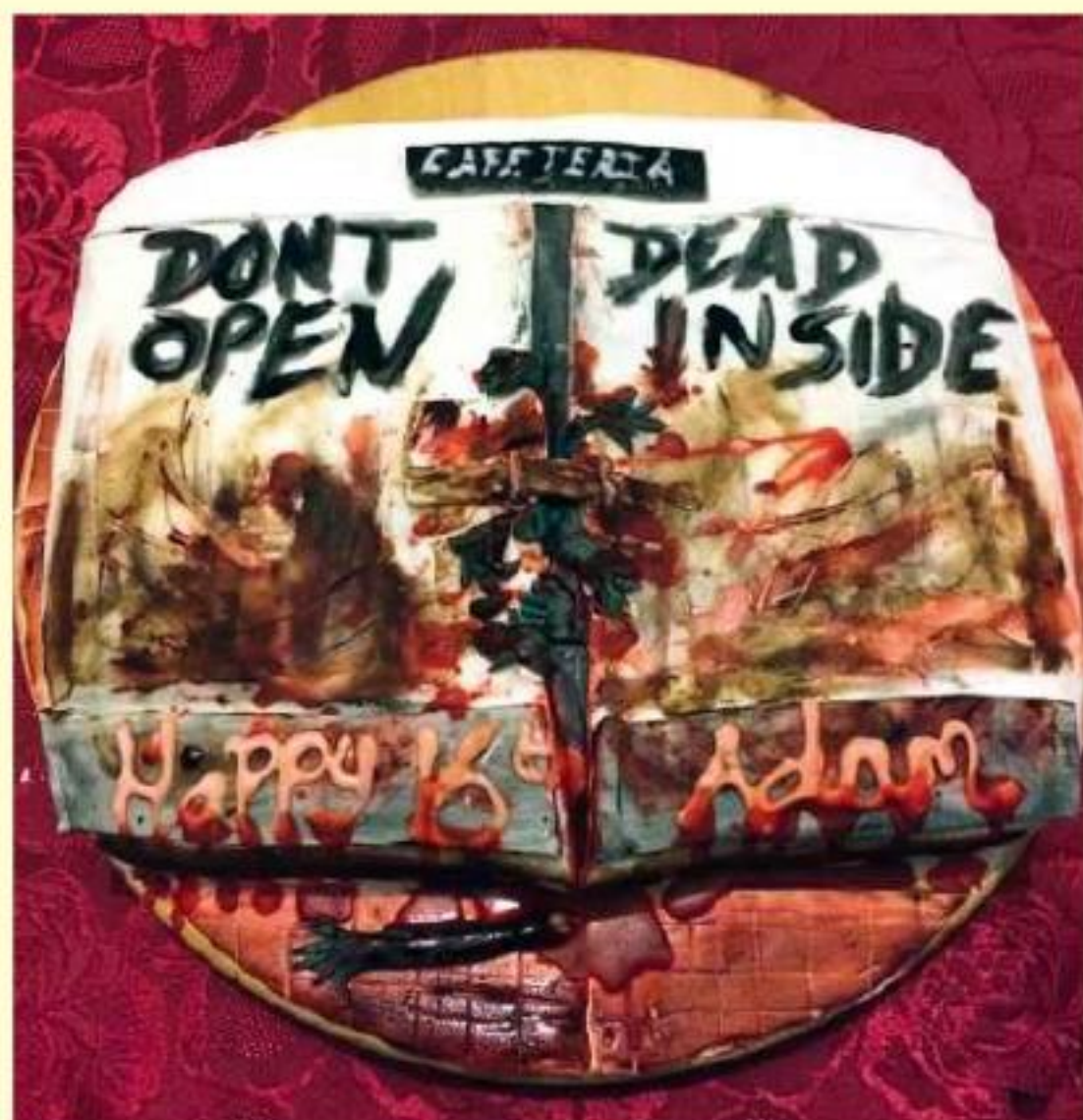
I'm 20 years old and originally from Lancaster, but I'm currently posted in Germany with the British Army.

I've served for two-and-a-half years so far and taken part in an operational tour of Afghanistan, which was an incredible life experience. I've actually travelled to quite a few places in the short time I've been serving.

I love golf, hate fishing, and my favourite band is Mumford & Sons! I'm in love with ink and tattooed alt. girls, and I've nearly finished my first sleeve – but I've got loads more tattoo ideas I want to try.

Here's a picture of me with my pull-out poster of Jessica Lou from *Bizarre* 219 (below). I'm a big fan of the magazine, and it would be exciting to see my photo in print – not to mention how jealous it would make the other lads!

Luke (@lukeey94), via Instagram →



ZOM-BIRTHDAY

Check out this *Walking Dead* birthday cake my sister, Kayleigh, made for my little brother, Adam, who turned 16 recently. When you cut down the middle, sweets pour out!

Christoff Monblouski, via email

PICTURE: CREATING BEAUTIFUL CREATURES
MUAH: JADE STYLES



TITS TO CENSORSHIP

I noticed a serious lack of nipples in *Bizarre* 220. Is this due to you ditching the black modesty bag recently? I haven't seen the magazine bagged in any shops for the last few months. Oh well, I guess we can't have everything...

Baking Bread (@CrissBKreme), via Twitter

Mandatron says: You're one of the (very) few readers who've said they'd like to see MORE nipples in the magazine! Normally, readers demand LESS nudity. I guess this proves we can't please everyone!

PERVY PETS, PART ONE

Here's Karloff the python enjoying his copy of *Bizarre* 221 (above, right), sprawled over a picture of me in the 'Ultra Vixens' section wearing Fetasia Latex, originally shot by Connie Taylor.



Karloff is just under a year old at the moment, and he'll eventually grow up to 9ft long.

Karloff also has a little sister called Lugosi, who's a tiny corn snake. Maybe when he's a little older, Karloff can come on stage with me! I think he's already trying to steal my spotlight...

Ultra Vixen Mynxie Monroe (@mynxiemonroe), via Twitter



WHERE DO YOU READ YOURS?

Most of you enjoy perusing *Bizarre* on the crapper, just like King Karim Jamal (right), but we want to see you reading the world's greatest rag on the highest peaks, in the lowest valleys... and in the weirdest places!



Here's a snap of Redneck Roy sitting on the throne, trying to find some peace and quiet to read his copy of *Bizarre* 221 at Scremfest Burton... but to no avail. Citizen Snipp and Pudzy Payaso had to wait in a queue while Roy dropped his plop. Nasty!

HANNIBAL ON HALLOWEEN

Check out this amazing portrait tattoo of Anthony Hopkins as Hannibal Lecter in *The Silence Of The Lambs* (above) by Jim Lynch at Tooth And Claw Tattoos in Rayleigh, Essex.

Jim has been tattooing for eight years, and opened the studio in June. The design was done last Halloween on one of his favourite customers, Ollie Hill from Canvey Island. Jim had been hoping to tattoo a portrait of Anthony Hopkins for quite some time, and he was especially excited to do it on Halloween.

You can follow Jim on Instagram at @jimlynch13, or find Tooth and Claw Tattoos on Facebook.

Nicola B, via Facebook

PERVY PETS, PART TWO

Here's a picture of Thalia, my itsy-bitsy spider, trying to climb up *Bizarre* 220 cover star Becky Holt's spout (below)!

Paddy Byrne (@batteredhaggis7), via Twitter

Bizarre says: Typical. You wait months for decent pictures of pervy pets, then TWO come along at once!

D-DAY DESIGN

This is a tattoo portrait of Adolf Hitler (below) I did as part of a D-Day themed sleeve in a trash-polka style.

If you check out the album of portraits at [Facebook.com/twentytentattoo](https://www.facebook.com/twentytentattoo) you'll also find a portrait I did of convicted child abuser, Rolf Harris. I inked the Harris design long before he was found guilty, and I had long chats with my client before





going through with the ink, to make sure he wanted to go ahead.

I love doing risqué stuff. It beats the humdrum of the usual butterflies and roses. It's also exciting to work on a daring client, and someone who'll trust me. I respect them for that.

Lou Barnes from **Twenty Ten Tattoo, Bolton**

MAE'S HEYDAY

I just wanted to say thank you so much for featuring the Disney Villains shoot by Chrissy Sparks at Dollhouse Photography in your December 2014 issue. It was a dream come true for me to be pictured as Ursula. *Bizarre* is such a big part of people's lives, including mine. What the *Bizarre* team do is incredible, and you do it so well. I guess that's why you're the number one alt.magazine!

Zoe Melissa Mae, via Facebook

***Bizarre* says:** We didn't pay Zoe to say this, we swear...

I AM PAIN

Last year I made a Predator costume for Halloween, which was pictured in *Bizarre*. This year I made a Pinhead

costume (above), but as I went in for surgery two days before Halloween, I wasn't able to show it off. I hope you'll put it in the mag instead!

James Howgate, via Facebook

HOLLY GRAIL

I wanted to share this pic of my bedroom (below). I have a huge pair of papier-mâché boobs that were moulded from inflated condoms, a painted safe with a real lock that's been superglued to the wall, and the words Pussy Riot, which were inspired by the Russian band. There's also a used thong and some other bits and bobs dedicated to my fiancé.

Holly AKA Ultra Vixen Midgymooshoe, via email



PHOTO ASSAULT

You lot showing off on our community page...
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Bostonphotoak submitted this portrait of Rebecca Anne Latham



PICTURE BOSTON PHOTOGRAPHY

Col submitted this pic of his mohawk by Sergi Mecca



A self portrait from Kittykins, recreating Camilla D'Errico's painting 'Cotton Candy Curly Cue'



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HAL MUSAZLIOGLU LONDON



ARTIST

Tomas Tomas
at Into You, London.

WHAT ARE THEY?

Colourful geometric
sleeves with flowers.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS TATTOO DESIGN?

My cultural background inspired
these designs – my roots are in Turkey,

and since my childhood I've been
inspired by the decorations found
in mosques, specifically the tiles
and floral geometric patterns.

HOW LONG DID THEY TAKE?

I dread to think how many years
my tattoos have taken to complete!

WHAT RESPONSE DO THEY GET?

Some people don't understand the
symbolism of my tattoos, but they
usually like the designs. When I'm in
Istanbul my ink often stops traffic!
However, I find it's difficult to keep
a steady job as I have so much ink.

JOHN CAVALLI KENT



ARTIST

Martin Ellis at Flaming
Art Tattoo, Crayford.

WHAT IS IT?

A superhero sleeve.

WHY DID YOU

CHOOSE THIS DESIGN? I'm a huge

comicbook fan, even though I'm in
my thirties, and The Avengers are my
favourite. For this sleeve I imagined
my own perfect team, as if I were
Nick Fury myself.

WHAT RESPONSE DOES IT GET?

I get stopped all the time by people who
want to look at my tattoos. Some people
think I only have an Avengers tattoo
because of the recent movie, but I had
my ink long before it was released.



SAMO WHITE
PORTSMOUTH



ARTIST Kaya-Moon at Kiss My Ink, Petersfield.

WHAT IS IT?

A design inspired by Rosie the Riveter on my right upper arm.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?

I've always loved old school pin-ups, but

this has a wicked zombie twist – the style is traditional meets modern. At this stage it's a work in progress, and I have more drips and splashes to add.

HOW LONG DID IT TAKE?

Kaya did the whole portrait in one sitting – she's really quick!

WHAT REACTION DOES IT GET?

People often stop me to talk about my tattoo. Quite a few people know who Rosie the Riveter is, but they've never seen her with a zombie face!



ANDY CHOWN
WEST SUSSEX



ARTIST

Steve Dunning at Stylish Skin, Chichester.

WHAT IS IT?

An octopus on my left forearm.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?

It's quite simple – I love octopi! When this picture was taken the tattoo was still

in progress, but the artist's drawing includes Japanese-style water effects, and an anchor as a symbol of hope. Hope is my daughter's middle name. Eventually there will be an owl holding the anchor and a swan, which will symbolise my other daughter who's named Grace. The owl is my mum's favourite bird.

HOW LONG DID IT TAKE?

So far we've spent eight hours on it. Eventually it will become a full sleeve.

WHAT RESPONSE DOES IT GET?

A lot of people love the octopus!



ELAINE WILLIAMS
SHREWSBURY



ARTIST

Colin Jones at Stained Class, Shrewsbury.

WHAT IS IT?

A leg piece inspired by a tropical reef.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?

I'm an animal lover and a fan of Colin's work – he's great at producing large, colourful pieces like this. On my back

I have another big design by Colin that includes flowers, birds, a moth and a tree frog. It stretches from my left shoulder down to my right-hand side.

HOW LONG DID IT TAKE?

Each of the fish took between four and five hours, and the background took six hours. All in all, that's not very long for such a vibrant design with an intense level of detail.

WHAT REACTION DOES IT GET?

Children love my leg design. Kids often shout "Nemo!" at me when they spot the clown fish.



MATT HICKFORD
STEVENAGE



ARTIST James 'Jimmy' Lawrence at Panic Ink, Hitchin.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THEM?

My ex-girlfriend got me hooked on tattoos. As you go through different stages of your life,

tattoos can act as a reminder of that time. I'm into traditional American style tattoos, and that's why I choose these images.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET?

I get a lot of comments about my gypsy head – the design is on the lower part of my forearm, and so she's quite visible.

WILL YOU BE GETTING MORE?

Yes! I'm hoping to evolve my collection of traditional designs into a full sleeve.

JOSS WILDERS
SOUTHSEA



ARTIST Kaya-Moon at Kiss My Ink, Petersfield.

WHAT IS IT?
A black and grey chest piece.

WHY DID YOU

CHOOSE THIS DESIGN?

I love portraiture, so I chose to have Dita Von Teese on one side of my chest and Kat Von D on the other. Now I have two beautiful women that I can look at every day! Between them I have a Jeff Gogue-style skull, with filigree designs decorating the area around it.

HOW LONG DID IT TAKE?

So far my chest has taken around 25 hours. Eventually I'd like my whole body to be covered, right up to my neck.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET TO YOUR TATTOOS?

I live in a small town which is full of pottery and antique shops, so I get quite a few stares when I'm walking around. But that's what I aim for!



LISA BROWN
LONDON



ARTIST Tota at Happy Sailor Tattoo Studio, Shoreditch.

WHAT IS IT?
A sleeve inspired by Lewis Carroll's

Alice's Adventures In Wonderland.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?

Most of the designs are replicas of John Tenniel's original illustrations, and I drew some extra elements myself to tie the design together. I wanted the artist's initials 'JT' included somewhere in the design as well.

ARE YOU PLANNING ANY MORE?

I'm planning to add more smoke, the Cheshire Cat's smile, and also some quotations from the book. If I include any colour, it won't be anything bright or modern – I want my tattoo to compliment Tenniel's original work. His images of Alice are iconic, and it's cool to have them on my arm.





ROODLE READING



ARTISTS Tracey Demetriou at King's Cross Tattoo Parlour, London (neck and chest); Alec Benjamin at Red Hot And Blue Tattoo, Edinburgh (hands).

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THESE DESIGNS? I wanted to have a human heart on my chest, but without wings as

lots of other people already have that design. Tracey designed my heart with antlers instead, as we both love taxidermy. The blue and red roses are inspired by my favourite Deftones album, and I got my hand tattoos because I love cats. One cat is wearing a snapback hat with the number 138 on it because I like The Misfits. The other cat is a 1930s mobster with a cigar. I also have 'show time' across my knuckles because I'm an ex-drama student.



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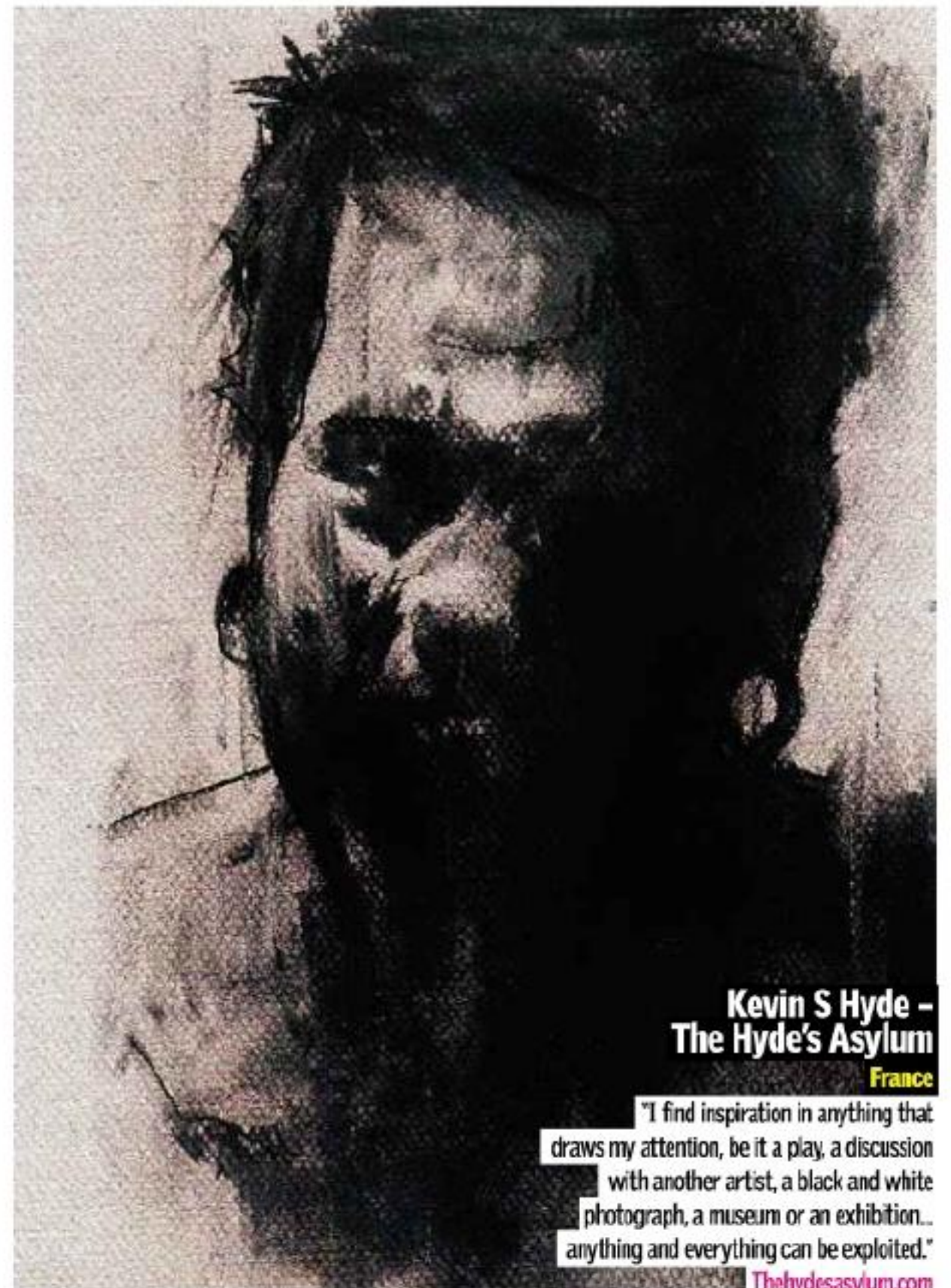


William Arthur
Wisconsin, USA

"I'd describe my art as something different, and guaranteed to be strange and handmade. Every set is built from gifted objects and junk from my garbage. There are no hidden tricks - I just point and click! I have no background in photography; just a creative eye and help from Cali Safora and John Peterson."
[Facebook.com/Milwaukeeartist](https://www.facebook.com/Milwaukeeartist)



RETOUCHER: JOHN PETERSON MODEL: CALI SAFORA

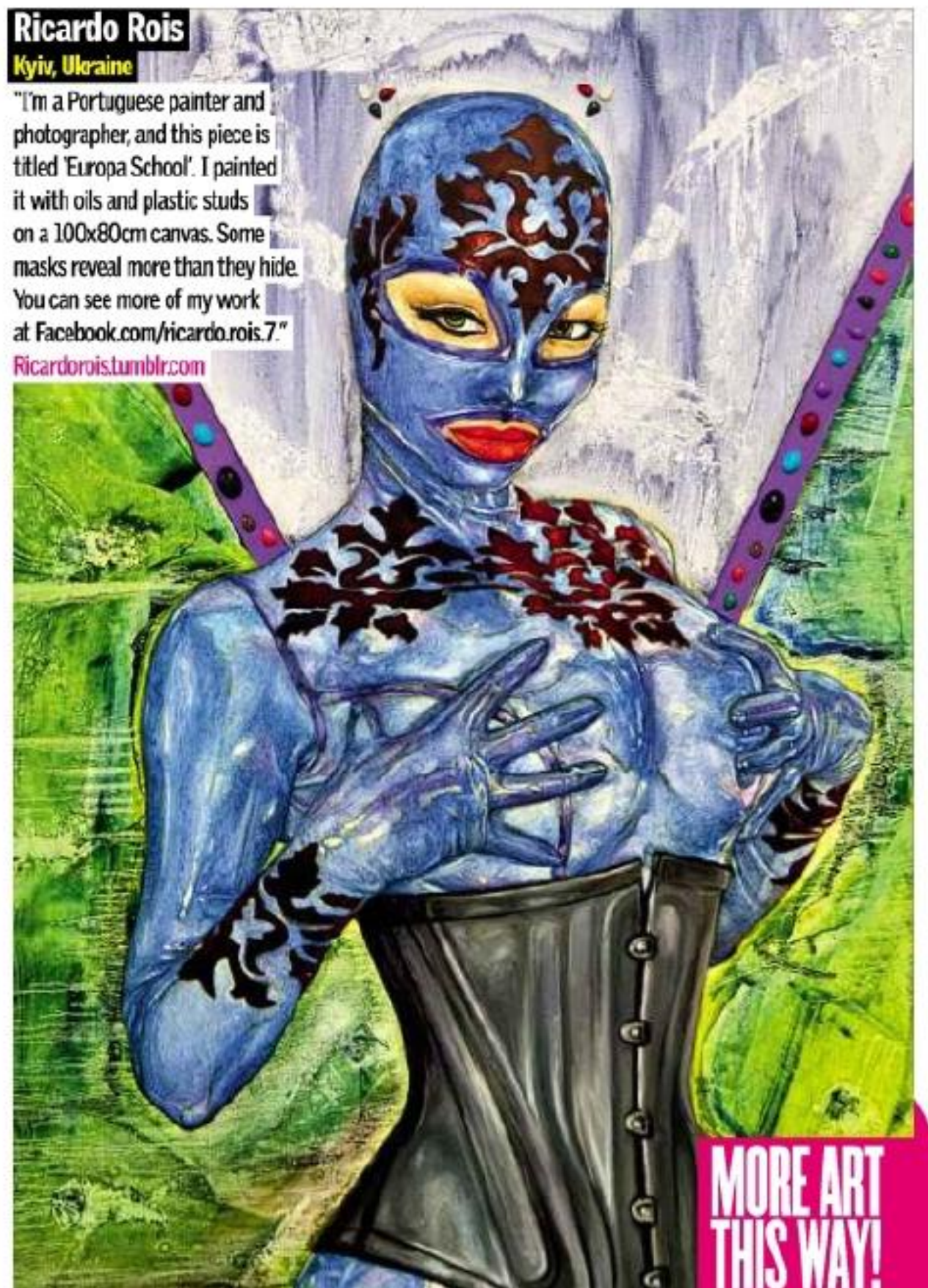


Kevin S Hyde -
The Hyde's Asylum
France

"I find inspiration in anything that draws my attention, be it a play, a discussion with another artist, a black and white photograph, a museum or an exhibition... anything and everything can be exploited."
Thehydesasylum.com

Ricardo Rois
Kyiv, Ukraine

"I'm a Portuguese painter and photographer, and this piece is titled 'Europa School'. I painted it with oils and plastic studs on a 100x80cm canvas. Some masks reveal more than they hide. You can see more of my work at [Facebook.com/ricardo.rois.7](https://www.facebook.com/ricardo.rois.7)"
[Ricardorois.tumblr.com](https://www.tumblr.com/ricardorois)



**MORE ART
THIS WAY!**

Sarah Bonse - Visual Echoes

Niagara Falls, USA

"My art is always evolving!
I often surf the web
and create what I'd like
to see in the world, which
normally involves fantasy
and special effects mixed
with alternative sex appeal.
I style most of my shoots,
and I'm influenced by horror
special effects that are
warped to show beauty
rather than terror."

Visualechoes.net

PHOTO / MIUHA; VISUAL ECHOES; MODEL / VISGERA





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PHOENIX WINTERS

24, BIRMINGHAM

"I'm a fierce fetish pin-up girl with a serious addiction to latex and cosplay. One of my weirdest moments was walking 'puppy boys' around a fetish event, where I had to tell off grown men wearing harnesses for jumping on people and chasing 'kitty boys'. It was empowering to pull men around on chains!"

PICTURE: CHRISSY SPARKS AT DOLLHOUSE



BETTIE BUTCHER

31, AUSTRALIA

"I'm a lover of vintage and pin-up, but with a dark BDSM twist, and my hottest fantasy involves dressing up in latex with a whip in my hand! I also love to take on different personas to express power or submission in the bedroom."

PICTURE: LEATHER AND LACE

RIA FEND

29, LONDON

"I have great memories of selling *Bizarre* while working in a newsagent's shop when I was 16. *Bizarre* caught my attention straight away, and it felt like the most controversial magazine on the shelves. I like anything that dares to be different, and I also have a morbid fascination with gore, horror and the macabre."

PICTURE: ORAN TARJAN PHOTOGRAPHY

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ZHENYA MERRICK

29, SAINT PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

"I'm a lost fetish girl in a big, brutal world, and the kinkiest thing I've ever done was to go shopping in a transparent latex dress. I adore retro lingerie, high heels, music and vodka. I like *Bizarre* because it's full of weird photos and crazy girls."

PICTURE: MAXIM SAMSONOV

KITTY CRYSTAL

29, NEW YORK CITY, USA

"I'm a fun and spunky sprite who's always happy, outgoing and positive. I admire Anna Nicole Smith because she never let anything get in her way! Before I die I'd love to drive in a demolition derby and visit Paris. I adore hot tattooed boys, and I love *Bizarre* for all the amazing hot babes!"



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OUR NEW FAVES

BIZARRE ART DIRECTOR DAVE KELSALL AND MANDATRON JUDGE NEW ARRIVALS ON ULTRAVIXENS.NET



PICTURE: HILARY WARING



PICTURE: DAVID MOSER - HM PHOTOGRAPHY

REBECCAPRIMROSEMAY

Mandatron says: "This blonde bombshell has a gallery at Ultravixens.net that's stuffed with cool pictures, many of which she's taken herself. One of my favourites is a snap of her shoving a cupcake in her gob with one hand, and holding a glass of plonk with the other, while looking as if she could crush puny humans with her enormous heels. Rebeccaprimrose may has plenty of VIP pics as well, if saucy selfies are your thing. Shwing!"

Dave Kelsall says: "Can someone tell me what it is with Bizarre models and cupcakes? Cupcake hats, tattoos, props, jewellery... I just don't get the fascination. But I am 64."

VAMODEL76

Mandatron says: "I might be wrong, but I'm pretty sure VA stands for 'very attractive'. That or Virginia, I don't know. But this lovely lady from the USA adores Bizarre - so much so that she burst into tears of joy when she heard she'd be featured in the magazine. In the past, VaModel76 has been told by negative people that she'd never make it as a model. Well, we hope this is a big FUCK YOU to the haters, because we think she rocks!"

Dave says: "There are two obvious reasons why I like VA... one is her haircut, and the second is that I like mature woman, being 73 myself..."

KER-CHING!

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ULTRA VIXEN: JAXX
PICTURE: BUST SHIR

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Dani Deficiency (below) is one of our latest **LIVE CHAT** girls. Sign up and head to Ultravixens.net/metaldollDani to book a chat session with her. To see the full line-up of **LIVE CHAT** Ultra Vixens, go to UltraVixens.net/live



PICTURE: MARTYN WILKINSON - MEETING STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

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Photography: Patrick Marks Model: Jade Wallis aka JBird



HELLO NURSE

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COSTUME
TORTURE GARDEN
& HW DESIGN



SEXUAL HEALING!

Feeling under the weather? Got a bout of post-Christmas flu? Well don't dwindle in the dumps, silly chumps – it's time for **Bianca Beauchamp** to kickstart 2015 in kinky style. Dressed to thrill, the latex-clad fetish legend is just what the doctor ordered...

No model has graced the cover of *Bizarre* more often than the enigmatic and saucy Bianca Beauchamp. For her twelfth cover – or her lucky thirteenth, if you count the second,

special edition cover she shared with Aria Giovanni during their kinky wrestling shoot – Bianca has squeezed herself into a naughty nurse's costume... just the thing to rid you of the winter blues!

But there's a mischievous irony in Bianca's choice of costume – after all, if she shimmied down a hospital corridor in her latex finery, she'd set pulses pounding and would pose a health risk to anyone with a dodgy ticker.

Luckily, though, Bianca doesn't have any ambitions to pursue a medical career...

"I think I'd make a bad nurse – a very bad and naughty nurse!" she confesses. "For starters, I think I'm much better at giving fever than healing it, wouldn't you agree? Also, I'm not sure I can be trusted with a needle in my hand. I mean, I could hurt someone... intentionally!"

Despite being *Bizarre*'s most beloved cover star and a loyal supporter of the magazine since we first opened for business in 1997, it always feels long overdue whenever we catch up with

Bianca for a chinwag. And this time the kinky conversation turned to aliens, feminists, water pistols... and dastardly meat pie pranks.

You're wielding a massive water pistol on our cover this month. How far does it shoot and did you soak anyone with it?

Oh, it can squirt far and long enough to fend off any horndogs who don't take "not interested" for an answer while I sunbathe at the beach!

Jokes aside, I did enjoy holding my super-soaker for a *Bizarre* cover, as it's a nice change from wielding a medical prop. And speaking of covers, may I take a moment to express my delight for not only gracing *Bizarre*'s cover 12 times, but also for being featured as a kinky latex nurse again?

This month's shoot is a flash from the past for me, as I was wearing a nurse's outfit in my very first cover with *Bizarre* over a decade ago, and I've reproduced that pose for you in one of this issue's pull-out posters.

Ahh, the sweet memories I have from that first shoot, particularly of that nasty syringe which was filled with suspicious green liquid. Many readers wondered what that green liquid was, and it was the subject of much speculation online. Fans begged me to tell my secret... but I never spilled the beans! →

HELLO NURSE

"MY NATURAL
B-CUP BOOBS HAVE
ENDED UP AS A FULL

FF-CUP,

AND MY BODY HAS
BECOME MORE LEAN
AND ATHLETIC"

**"THE BABADOOK IS
THE BEST HORROR
FILM IN YEARS! IT'S A
WONDERFUL LOW-BUDGET
FLICK
THAT PUTS MOST HOLLYWOOD
PRODUCTIONS TO SHAME"**

Are you going to spill the beans now?
No, I won't... sorry!

**What's the worst practical joke you've ever
played on someone?**

I'm not much of a practical joker. The only
prank I can remember playing was one New
Year's Eve, when I was at a friend's house party.

While serving myself a glass of bubbly,
I noticed there was a meat pie on a table that
looked dry and sad. So I got this wicked idea
to make it more appealing by smothering it
in whipped cream and cherries. And I didn't
have to wait long for someone to fall into my trap.

My victim was an old guy, and he took
a huge bite of the pie and started chewing.
His face quickly turned from curiosity to shock!
He began choking and spitting, and the more
he spat the more I laughed like a hysterical hyena!
His face was flushed with anger and he stormed
out of the party... and I found out later that he'd
been a vegetarian for over 20 years!

I wish I could have apologised. But one bite
of a dry meat pie doesn't count as destroying
a lifetime of vegetarian achievements, right?

You're too cruel, Bianca! How was 2014 for you?

Last year was busy. I was planning and doing photo
shoots all the time, had a three-week trip to New
Zealand, and the rest of my time was spent working
on merging my two websites, Bianca's Latex Lair
and BB's Glamour Lounge, into one multimedia
site called I Love Bianca (ilovebianca.com).

I trashed all my previous designs to make the
new site kick-ass and more interactive, and I had
to re-upload all 839 of my shoots and videos into
the new member zone - it took months!

However, it was amusing to see how my body
has transformed over the years. Not only have my
natural B-cup boobs ended up a full FF-cup after
four operations, but my body has become more
lean and athletic. I hate going to the gym, but it's
really paid off over the years. →



HELLO NURSE



What was your craziest memory from 2014?

My favourite moment has to be my Vampirella tribute shoot. For those who don't know the character, Vampirella is a sexy vampire heroine who fights evil bloodsuckers, and the shoot was suggested to me by a fan. I presented the idea to Polymorphe – a latex designer based in Montreal, the city where I live – in early 2013. They agreed to make the latex outfit, but it gave them headaches because the tiny red sling didn't want to stay put on my curvy body!

Finding a location for the shoot also proved to be a challenge because I wanted a real cemetery rather than a studio with cheap tomb props. But most cemeteries aren't keen on erotica photoshoots, as I'm sure you won't be surprised to hear!

My husband and amazing photographer, Martin Perreault, suggested that we find an abandoned cemetery. I didn't believe people forgot about their dead relatives and left them behind, so I was shocked when we located an abandoned cemetery only two hours from Montreal. I still felt there was something missing from the shoot, though. Then it hit me – I needed to include Vampirella's nemesis, Count Dracula. And who could have filled this role better than my brother-in-spirit, The Richard? After six years of absence from my website, I was able to bring The Richard back!

My second most memorable moment was in March, when I flew to New Zealand for the second time. I spent three magical weeks on a road trip discovering Middle-earth's hidden gems, and playing the role of Lara Croft, who I've been cosplaying as since my first *Tomb Raider* shoot in Fiji in 2010.

I also did my second ever bungee jump dressed as Lara, just like in the videogame. That drew lots of attention from both the spectators and the bungee team crew! →

**“ALIENS
OCCASIONALLY VISIT
ME AT NIGHT. WE DRINK
TEA, EAT SCONES AND
HAVE A LAUGH TOGETHER”**



"I SMOTHERED A MEAT PIE

IN WHIPPED CREAM AND
CHERRIES, AND THIS OLD
GUY TOOK A BITE.

I LATER FOUND OUT
THAT HE'D BEEN
A VEGETARIAN
FOR 20 YEARS"

What did you think about 2014 in general? Further worrying proof that our world is one serious, fucked up place?

Yes, in the news and on Facebook I keep seeing a lot of disturbing shit happening around the world. War, hunger, violence, torture, animal cruelty, pollution... our poor planet is showing its fragility. It's sad how our race continues to ignore the warnings, and that we keep hurting each other. Hopefully we can still learn – our time is so short and precious.

How would you go about achieving world peace? Do you think it's an impossible dream?

In my ideal world there would be no war, no guns and no cash. At the moment I'm also concerned about the health industry. I'm convinced that big pharmaceutical companies have already developed cures to certain diseases, but that these treatments are being kept a secret because selling pills is more profitable. Without sounding pessimistic, I believe that world peace is a utopian ideal and is an impossible dream.

On the subject of discoveries, at the time of this interview (November 2014), British scientist Dr Matt Taylor has just landed a probe on a comet. However, rather than singing his praises, there's been an outcry from feminists who've condemned him for the shirt he was wearing, which featured a sexy cartoon women. Got any thoughts about that?



Don't get me started with feminists! What the heck is wrong with these women? I mean, the dude has landed a probe on a shooting star, which could lead to many great discoveries, and all they can do is talk trash about the shirt he was wearing? Euh... hello!!

This wasn't a fashion show – it was science. Why do these feminists obsess over his shirt and not pay attention to his achievements? To me, this outcry just makes women seem superficial. I thought his shirt rocked – it was funny and kind of sexy.

Are you a secret science boffin, Bianca?

Maybe I am. But when the time comes for me to reveal my scientific discoveries to the world, as a tribute to Dr Taylor I will host my first press conference wearing the same shirt he wore. But it will be so outrageously cut that feminists will go nuts about it for decades to come!

What do you think is out there at the farthest reaches of the galaxy? Got any theories?

I've had a fantasy since I was a child that in every galaxy there's a planet Earth that's an exact replica of our own, but with everybody making different decisions. Perhaps all the other Biancas out there are answering these interview questions at this same time. I'd love to read their answers!

**I'M CONVINCED THAT
CURES
TO CERTAIN DISEASES HAVE
BEEN DEVELOPED, BUT BIG
COMPANIES ARE KEEPING THEM
A SECRET BECAUSE SELLING
PILLS
IS MUCH MORE PROFITABLE"**

Us too. Have you ever been abducted by aliens?

They did try once while I was sleeping. And as I'm an insomniac, you don't want to fuck with me when I finally fall asleep. Boy did I give them heat! How disrespectful to not only wake me up, but abduct me without my consent!

After 10 minutes of my red fury, they wanted to be abducted themselves. I think they must have hit the 'return home' button five times in as many seconds, but their machine was broken so they got stuck with me for a while longer. Eventually, they figured out the only way to silence me was by fixing my insomnia problem. I can't remember how they managed that, though, as I was out of it during the procedure. After that, we became good friends and they took me home. They still occasionally visit me at night. We drink tea, eat scones and have a laugh together.

Returning to the subject of 2014, what was your favourite film / book / album of the year and why?

The Babadook is the best horror film in years! It's a wonderful low-budget movie from Australia, which proves that when creative and talented people are given a good story to work with, they can come up with films that put most Hollywood productions to shame. *The Babadook* works on many levels and explores deep themes related to grief and family.

At the time of writing, are you looking forward to the *50 Shades Of Grey* film or, like us, do you think it will be a bucket of shit?

I call it *50 Shades Of Shame*. The only good thing about this book is it can be used to light a fire on cold winter nights.

What are your predictions for 2015? What things do you think will happen in the world?

Every time I've tried to predict the future I've ended up being not only wrong, but my predictions have been the opposite of what really happened. So, for now, I prefer to keep my mouth shut and let the fortune cookie do its job.

So what have you got planned for 2015? Any big goals?

If I can cross out all the projects that are still on my 'to do' list for 2014, the only thing I'm planning is to read this interview while sunbathing nude on a beach somewhere in this galaxy. Papakolea Beach in Hawaii would be acceptable... 

For more on Bianca visit her brilliant, brand new site ilovebianca.com, and don't forget to check out BiancaBeauchamp.com

HELLO NURSE





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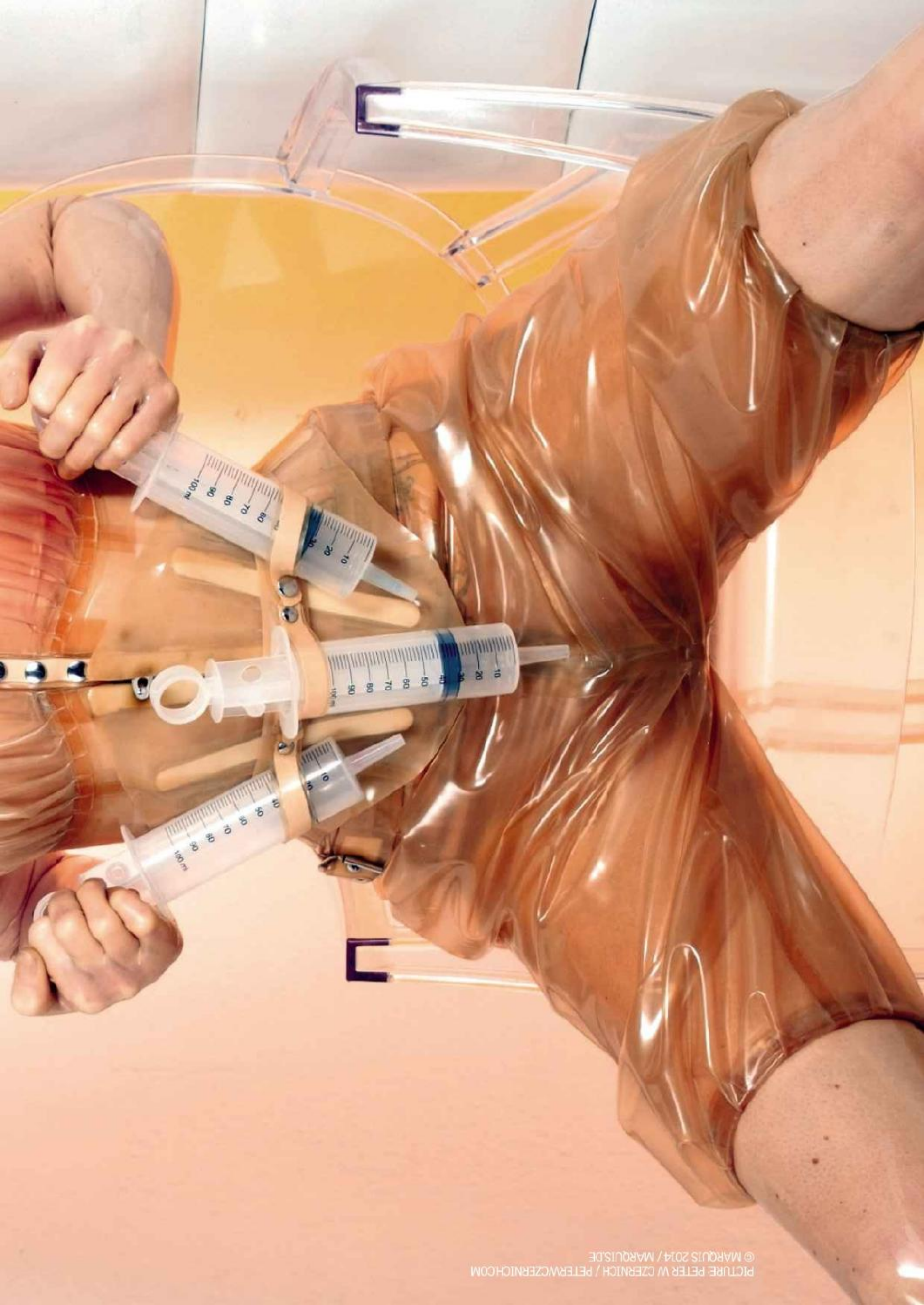
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BIZARRE REA

Meet some of *Bizarre*'s most hardcore readers and find out why **YOU** can't get enough of the world's #1 alternative magazine...

WORDS AMANDA COBAN

It's hard to believe this grotty magazine has been going for over 15 years. Since 1997 we've been delivering a monthly dose of depravity – and you can't get enough of it!

Recently, we reached out to our alt.army to find out why YOU love *Bizarre*. The responses we received were overwhelming, and your kind words touched our cold, black hearts.

The *Bizarre* team would like to thank you all for sticking by us through thick'n'thin – we love what we do, and we're glad to see you do as well.

EMMA MENDES DA COSTA, BRIGHTON

“I've been reading *Bizarre* for 15 years. That's half a lifetime of filth and depravity. I still get asked for proof of age when I buy it, though, so I reckon it keeps me looking young.

“When I was in college, *Bizarre* and *Kerrang!* were the only acceptable reading materials in our common room. After all these years, my friends still love *Bizarre* and my mother still hates it. She grimaces whenever she sees a copy lying around my house.

“All I wanted to do when I grew up was work for *Bizarre*. (Of course, I didn't tell my careers advisor that. I told her I wanted to be a car – I was a precocious shit and I took a lot of drugs.) Since 2004, I've written on-and-off for the mag. The strangest thing I ever did for *Bizarre* was to have a microchip shot into my shoulder, which identifies me as a chihuahua. My show-name is Princess Fifi Twinklepants III.

“I attended four *Bizarre* Balls, where I ran riot as Tank Girl, slouched around in a mogwai kigu, and was even sketched by comic artist Rufus Dayglo while dressed as a zombie cheerleader. I went a bit fangirl around Rufus, if I'm honest. I'm cringing just thinking about it...

“One of the first *Bizarre* shoots I was fascinated by was of a heavily-pregnant and tattooed Asia Argento. I read that she appeared in her father's horror films, so I started seeking them out. Today, I own every single Dario Argento film released with English subtitles. *Bizarre*, you triggered a very expensive hobby.



DEERS ROCK!

MIA FOSTER, LIVERPOOL

“Mia Foster is my super-kinky alter ego – she dwells within me and drivels out like a hangover shit. When I transform into her, I become a hot fuck-machine who revels in BDSM and dominates my submissive play bunny with a 10” cock!

“When I was 21, I remember spotting a copy of *Bizarre* amongst the fucking mess of a room that belonged to the university chick I was seeing at the time. I wiped away the debris of pizza boxes, knickers and endless essay printouts before reading the August 2006 issue from cover to cover.

“*Bizarre* is the only mag I subscribe to, and when I did I received a free gift. The *Bizarre Big Book of Freaks! Geeks! And Amazing People* book takes pride of place in my bathroom, and comes in useful during those times when I haven't got my phone to pass time while I'm having a poo (below).

“I'm interested in all things strange and bizarre, but anything fetish or BDSM related gives me an instant clit-on. I have a blog at Lezbekinky.co.uk where I share my experiences, tips and advice for newbies on the scene. *Bizarre* helps to inspire me!

“I loved the all-female wrestling feature in *Bizarre* 205, where 'champions prevail by scoring 'sex points' and losers get humiliated with strap-ons'. It wasn't over-the-top kink, but the photos really hit the spot.

“I've taken my copy of *Bizarre* to work a few times, and caught other members of staff intently browsing when they thought no one was looking – *Bizarre* serves as a great conversation starter in awkward situations!

“Thank you *Bizarre* for making my normal life a lot less boring, and for giving me inspiration to make my Mia side even more awesome.”





WOLFY ADDER, IMMINGHAM

“The first issue of *Bizarre* I bought was dated May 2007, and had Kitty Lea on the cover. Initially, I wasn't expecting much, but I was instantly hooked and I haven't missed an issue since! I love how accepting *Bizarre* is – I'm not typically alternative, but I felt welcome when I joined the YourBizarre community forum.

“After leaving college, my shyness developed into a severe anxiety disorder. I couldn't cope in crowds of people, and my social life was reduced to occasional grocery shopping with my sister. But that changed when I began interacting with other Bizarrelings online, who seemed to genuinely enjoy talking to me.

“My self-imposed exile from the real world ended when some of us *Bizarre* fans arranged a meet-up in Birmingham. It was the first time I'd left the house to meet strangers, and it was one of the most terrifying things I've ever done. I had panic attacks and came close to a breakdown. But it was worth it. Thanks to *Bizarre* I met some amazing people who understood my issues, and many of them have become the best friends I've ever had.

ARTIST: RATWTHANTLERSTUMBLR.COM



“My favourite *Bizarre* feature was when Alix Fox and Tom Broadbent visited the Furies in London for the June 2008 issue. At that point I had no idea what the Furry Fandom was, but I suddenly realised

that I was very much a Furry. The feature pointed me in the direction of the UKFur webpage, where I signed up. Since then, I've been to several Furry events.

“In the seven years since I first picked up *Bizarre*, my life has completely changed. I attended the Bizarre Ball in Summer 2010

and wore my partial fursuit. I even managed to meet and have photos taken with all of my heroes – the staff of *Bizarre*! I've also attended more *Bizarre* and Furry meet-ups, as well as comic conventions.

“Socially, I still struggle and have panic attacks, but the difference between how I am now and how I used to be is vast. None of it would have been possible if I hadn't picked up that magazine on a whim. I'd not go so far as to say *Bizarre* saved my life, but it made me realise what I was missing out on. I guess that is what's so good about it – *Bizarre* covers such a wide range of alternative subcultures that everybody can find a place and nobody is excluded. *Bizarre* and its readers helped me to get out there and start building a life.

NINA LABELLE, ESSEX

“I'm the pint-sized pin-up with an addiction to glamour and anything that's weird!

“I've been reading *Bizarre* for about five years, since my dad introduced me to the magazine – it was always his favourite. Sadly, my dad passed away recently, but he was featured in the 'Junk Mail' pages

of *Bizarre* 214 after my mum got a portrait tattoo of him by Darren Stares at Unique Tattoo, Portsmouth (below).

“I love the fetish features and reading about serial killers. Anything morbid fascinates me!

“Vanessa Lake is my favourite *Bizarre* cover star so far – she's stunning. Unfortunately, I haven't attended a Bizarre Ball event, so please host another so I can check it out!



STEVEN BAXTER, LINCOLNSHIRE

“I'm a horror-loving, slightly pervy metal-head who's been reading *Bizarre* since the very first issue! I'm outwardly quite normal-looking – but the people who are close to me know better.

“I've stuck by *Bizarre* through the good and the bad – there simply isn't another mag on the market to compare it with!

“My favourite features are the horror film content and murder stuff. I've discovered many movies through *Bizarre* over the years, including *A Serbian Film*, which is one of my favourites.

“I like all the lovely ladies featured in the magazine, especially Masuimi Max!

“I was published in the 'Junk Mail' section of *Bizarre* 204 for my back tattoo of Miss Miranda (above, right). My mum, who sadly died last year, loved the magazine, and she bought two copies when my picture was published – she was chuffed to bits!



MANDATRON, BIZARRE

“I’m *Bizarre*’s Communities Editor and I’ve been reading the mag for longer than I can possibly remember!

“Becoming a part of the editorial team has been a dream come true. Thanks to *Bizarre*, I’ve travelled all over the country to conventions, events and launch parties, and I’ve met some extraordinary people along the way.

“One of my favourite pictures was taken at the winter 2010 *Bizarre* Ball (left). I’m wearing my homemade Domo Kun outfit and surrounded by a cool group of ladies, including *Bizarre*’s Auntie Den – my predecessor! Interacting with *Bizarre* readers, models and icons – online and in real life – is the best thing about my job.

“April Flores has always been my *Bizarre* cover star



crush. I was honoured to interview April via Skype with her late husband, Carlos Batts, in June 2013. Beforehand, I had nervous butterflies in my belly (it was my first video interview!) but they were so friendly, it felt like the three of us were old friends! This sketch of April (below) by one of the internet’s biggest weirdos, Chris (Simpsons artist) was featured in *Bizarre*’s 200th issue.

“In January 2014, I was honoured to chat with Buck Angel in Soho about the documentary *Mr Angel* by Dan Hunt (that’s me with Buck on the left, top pic).

is it eggs I left the café oozing positivity out of my pores. Buck’s feel-good vibes are infectious!

“Following the shocking death of Sophie Lancaster in 2007, *Bizarre*’s alternative community felt stronger than ever. There’s never been a platform like *Bizarre*, where often overlooked subcultures can speak out and be heard. I’m proud to be different!”

ILLUSTRATION: CHRIS (SIMPSONS ARTIST)

STEPH QUINN, KILMARNOCK

“Twelve years ago I found a stash of *Bizarre* mags at the bottom of my cousin’s wardrobe. I remember being fascinated by the gorgeous women on the covers and the gory pictures!

“I’ve been alternative from a young age – most of the things I’m interested in the general public would find a bit weird. I was brought up in a small town where it was hard to be yourself without feeling judged. When I came across *Bizarre*, it was like the mag was made for me! I bought it every month and subscribed as soon as I could – eight years have passed, and I’ve never looked back. Even my rabbit Albert loves it (right)!

“In 2010 I travelled from Glasgow to attend the *Bizarre* Ball. I wore a fitted black halterneck dress with big cherries on it, and had my hair put up in victory rolls at Pimps & Pinups in London. I met *Bizarre* cover stars Viktoria Modesta and Masumi Max – I was totally in awe of Masumi, she’s so tiny! She has the best attitude towards life and doesn’t care what anyone thinks about her!

“My favourite subject is serial killers! I’ve got hundreds of books about them, and they fascinate me. I could read about that stuff all day... and I usually do! I also like reading about body modifications – not so much tattooing, but more suspension, branding and scarification. It’s beautiful!

“The feature about the Capuchin Catacombs in Sicily really stuck with me. My husband and I travelled to Sicily for our honeymoon, and we visited the catacombs when we were in town. It was the weirdest, creepiest and most fascinating thing I’ve ever seen. *Bizarre*’s feature showed me a different side of the island that we didn’t hear about out there.

“*Bizarre*, keep doing what you’re doing. You bring us a magazine and a community that’s like no other. We need *Bizarre* in our lives! Stay true to what you do and keep it weird’n’wonderful.”



DANIEL TALLETT, LEEDS

“I’ve been reading *Bizarre* for about five years, after spotting it in a local shop.

“I love learning about fetishes – it’s interesting to find out what turns people on. The feature on giantess fetishists also stuck with me.

“Thanks to *Bizarre*, I discovered the movie *American Mary*. I even attended a screening where I met the Soska sisters who work together as film directors, producers and writers, as well as Katharine Isabelle who played the lead role. And after seeing Kato on the cover of *Bizarre* 217, I’m now a big fan.

“*Bizarre* is the only magazine that explores subjects that are deemed taboo by society. It’s shown me that, although the things I like are strange, there are people out there who’ll understand me and share the same interests. *Bizarre* taught me to not feel ashamed of my alternative side, but to embrace it and let my freak flag fly!”



WORDS
STEPHEN DAULTREY / @STEVEKITTEN

PICTURES
SIMON BOTTOMLEY

ADDITIONAL EFFECTS PICTURES
DAVID FOXLEY

ISLAND

Bizarre ventures to Osea Island to visit the set of British slasher-thriller *Writer's Retreat*, where budding wordsmiths are being bumped off left, right and centre...

Bizarre is standing in the kitchen of a rustic manor house. People are spilling in and out of the room, and amidst a clamour of chattering someone is hollering, "I need some corkscrews, please!"

A tall, attractive lady wanders past us carrying a plate of (fake) gouged eyeballs and severed fingers, and disappears through a doorway leading into a pantry. Inside, we can see a counter strewn with menacing cutlery and DIY implements, all carefully laid-out like a display at a B&Q store.

Nearby, a man wearing a bloodied shirt is strapped to a chair, with an angry wound glistening

on his slashed-up face. Two other figures are standing over him, discussing how they can prolong the poor chap's misery.

"When you rub the chillies into his face, do it as if you're applying soothing cream," directs one of the men, his instructions delivered dryly, with a soft Brazilian accent. "It's vital that you do this slowly and at the last possible moment. You can make the audience cry, you can make them laugh – but most important of all, you must make them wait!"

The bound man, an actor, squirms in his seat, and has just remembered something of enormous importance. "Hey," he calls out to the film crew. "You do realise I'm allergic to chillies, right?"

CAUSEWAY OF DOOM

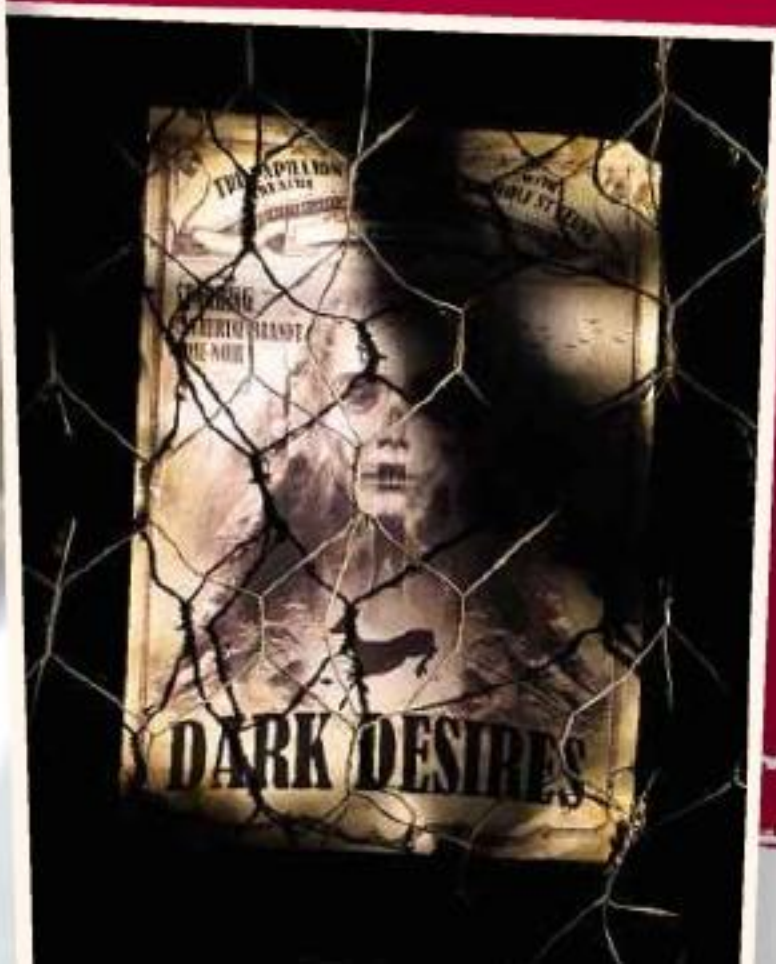
It's early afternoon on 31 October and *Bizarre* has been whisked to Osea Island in Essex to visit the set of *Writer's Retreat*, a forthcoming psychological slasher from feature director, Diego Rocha (the man giving the "make 'em wait" direction).

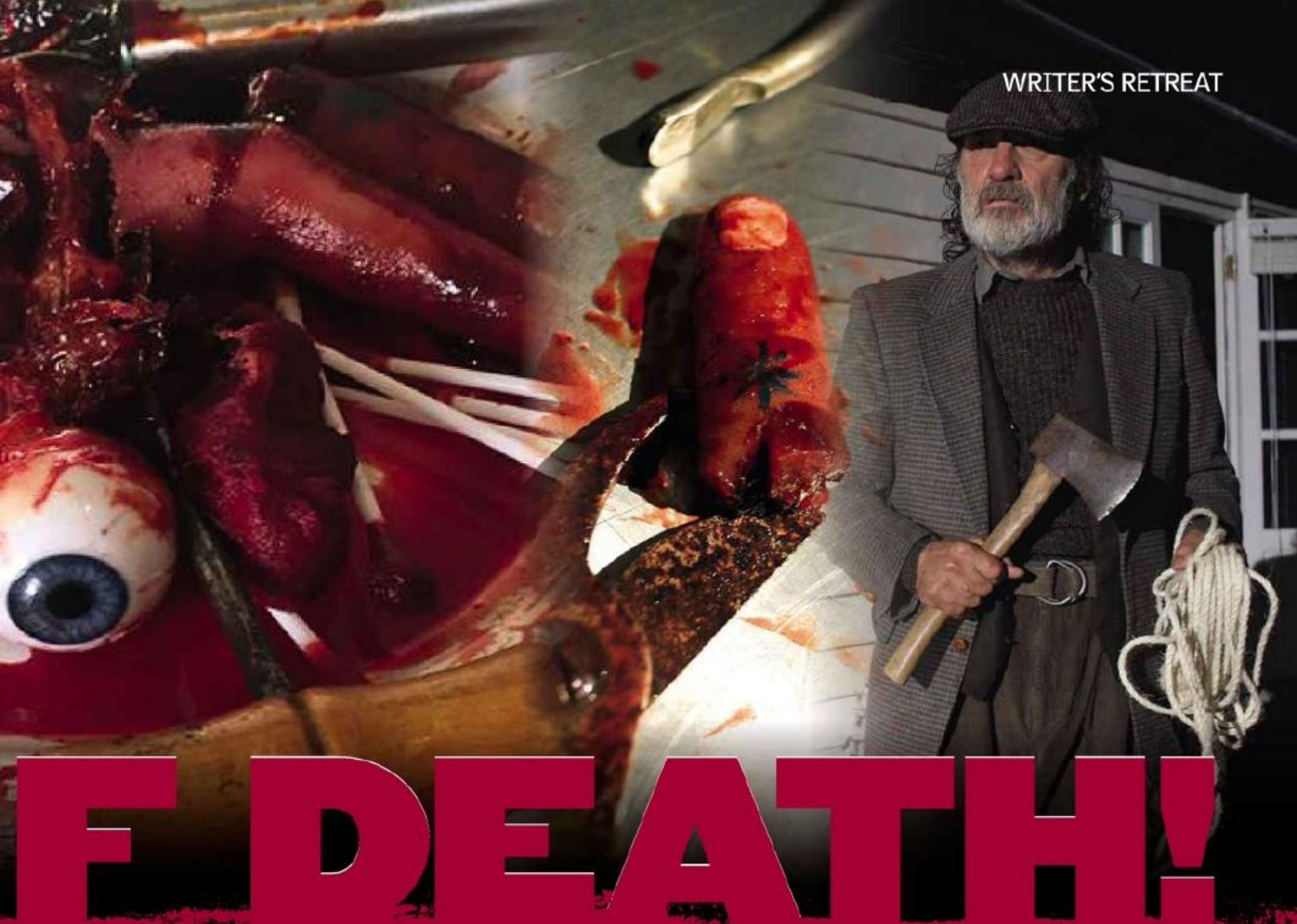
It's the final day of filming, and the young crew has worked their nuts off to get everything wrapped up in time for the end of the film's four-week production cycle. So far, most of the daily shoots have lasted well into the early hours – and tonight will be no exception.

Writer's Retreat is the story of a group "damaged" strangers who take part in a writing workshop on a remote island, in the hope of developing ideas for novels.

However, as each of the unbalanced characters harbours deep-rooted issues, it's not long before cabin fever sets in, and people start going missing – or, more to the point, end up being brutally tortured. For those who've read Chuck Palahniuk's *Haunted*, the film's premise will be familiar – but as another journalist observes, it's also like the classic Agatha Christie movie adaptation *And Then There Were None...* but with added gore.

Not only is *Bizarre* excited to be on the set of a British horror film on Halloween, we're also thrilled by the film's splendid location. Privately owned by a businessman, Osea Island is a secluded retreat containing 400-acres of idyllic countryside, a smattering of 17th century farm buildings, and four miles of pristine coastline.





F DEATH!

The island's main attraction is a 19th century manor house, which was used as a rehab and mental health clinic from 2005 until 2010. Prior to that the secluded island provided rehabilitation for wealthy alcoholics, including avant-garde artist Walter Sickert.

Reaching the island involves driving across a twisting pebble causeway, which snakes across an estuary of the River Blackwater. This location was also used as the Nine Lives Causeway in adaptations of Susan Hill's *Woman In Black*, including the 2012 Daniel Radcliffe flick (and forthcoming sequel), and the made-for-TV 1989 version.

Visitors can only cross the causeway at specific times of day – every seven hours, in fact – due to high waters. According to locals, the tide can rise so fast that at least 20 naïve folk have had to abandon their sinking vehicles in recent years because they tried to cross at inopportune times.

At other moments, however, the water settles at a safe level, and when *Bizarre* returns to the mainland we're treated to the strange illusion of driving through the sea, where all you can see directly below are dark waters softly illuminated by moonlight.

THE POWER OF SUGGESTION

But today isn't about being wooed by lavish scenery – it's about getting an insight into low-budget horror film-making. And we've certainly picked the best time to join the production, as this is the day when most of the torture scenes are being filmed.

"There are some gore effects being created in the make-up room at 5:30pm, which you won't want to miss," our publicist guide tells us. "But in the main house there will be torture happening all day."

The film's 35-year-old director started in copywriting and advertising before progressing into creative writing and film directing. *Writer's Retreat* is Rocha's first full-length feature, and was penned by his sometimes writing partner, Jeremy Sheldon. Rocha says Sheldon's script appealed to him because it's about damaged human beings rather than "some crazy special effects".

Diego says he's a fan of intense psychological films, and despite *Writer's Retreat* promising plenty of eye-gouging and corkscrewed legs, its secret lies in what you *don't* see. The director says films such as *The Shining*, the "very believable" *Eden Lake*, and Roman Polanski's 1969 occult shocker *Rosemary's Baby* are big inspirations.

"Before shooting *Rosemary's Baby*, Polanski read the book *Eye And Brain: The Psychology Of Seeing*, which explains that you don't actually see everything that you think you see," says Rocha. "In a TV interview about the film, the show's presenter apologised to Polanski because he said his team had edited out the scenes of the baby to play to the TV audience. But Polanski said, 'What baby? We never filmed a baby!' The human brain is so powerful that it produces images in the mind that aren't really there. For me, gore and heads flying around isn't interesting for the audience. →



WRITER'S RETREAT

As soon as the spectator sees something that they can rationalise and understand, it loses its mystery and power. It's more interesting for a director to play with the unconscious mind of the audience."

Another aspect to Rocha's masterly direction lies in keeping the audience waiting, and teasing them to the brink until the viewer is ready to explode – the ploy the director exercised earlier while filming the chillies torture scene.

But despite showing restraint, *Writer's Retreat* still promises plenty of visceral nastiness.

When we make a trip to the make-up crew's HQ, situated in a shack close to the manor house, Lauren Gregory, the film's head of make-up, is busy creating a grisly head wound to one of the actresses. Her special effect and prosthetics cohort, David Foxley, is standing nearby, and we soon discover that he's the main man behind the movie's splatter.

"One of the most fun effects to do was for a girl whose eye is gouged out and who then gets her throat slit," the tall, heavily tattooed dude explains, showing us gruesome snaps on his camera phone. "And there was a guy who originally had a pencil shoved in his cheek, but we decided that wouldn't have proved fatal, so we changed it to a pencil being plunged into his eye."

A master of old school effects, Foxley says that one of his influences is legendary gorehound Tom Savini, but that the tone of *Writer's Retreat* is markedly different to anything the *Dawn Of The Dead* effects genius has worked on.

"I grew up with Savini and I love his stuff, but it's very over-the-top," says Foxley. "*Writer's Retreat*



is restrained, and is devised to obtain a visceral, real and gritty look. Our 'money shots' are not gratuitous, and are designed to make you squirm rather than cheer. Some of the best horror films, such as *Halloween*, have minimal gore. Eli Roth's *Hostel*, even though its actual violence is nasty, is powerful because it sets up a scenario that's believable. Just being chained up by strangers is horrible. And for me the creepiest thing in *Hostel* are the orphaned kids throwing rocks."

As Foxley continues to divulge the challenges of creating authentic horror effects, behind us a pair of

actors are rehearsing a scene in which a corkscrew is rammed into a victim's ear. From our position, we grimace as one of the actors twists a blunt instrument into their partner's exposed, reddened lug.

"We also did practical effects of a slit throat, and a chisel going into someone's leg," continues Foxley, with one eye on the carnage behind him. "For both of these we built a delivery device and attached it to a pressure system, so that blood gets pumped out. Because of the pace of the film and the low budget, we usually only have one take for these things to work. I've had things happen in the past where blood has sprayed across the room, and squirted the assistant director in the eye. Thankfully nothing like that has happened on this film... yet!"

GHOSTS IN THE WINDOW?

Despite the film's modest £300,000 budget, *Writer's Retreat* has attracted a strong cast of British talent and seasoned stars.

The film's lead actors include Brad Moore from new crime thriller *Montana*, Robert Goodman, who starred in Martin Scorsese's *Gangs Of New York*, and Camilla Marie Beeput, who played sexy Zahra in season seven of *Peep Show*.

Baritone-voiced veteran actor, Christopher Fairbank (above left), has the most glittering CV on *Writer's Retreat*, having starred in more than 100 films and TV shows, including Marvel epic *Guardians Of The Galaxy*, *Alien³*, and *The Fifth Element*. In *Writer's Retreat*, Fairbank plays a grizzled Falkland's War veteran who wants to become a better war writer than Andy McNabb.





WE WATCH A REHEARSAL WHERE ONE OF THE PLAYERS RAMS A CORKSCREW INTO THEIR VICTIM'S EAR

But the most important player in the film is Osea Island itself. After discovering the island, the crew set about tinkering with the script to make best use of the creepy location. Furthermore, renting the island also proved to be a money saver, given that the entire four-week shoot has been contained in a single space, with no costly uprooting to multiple locations across the country.

Fairbank says that living in such seclusion has also helped the cast add fiery intensity to their roles.

"It's method acting in a sense," he tells us over a late lunch of pasta and Bolognese sauce. "As actors, we're all exactly in the same predicament as the characters in the film – we have no real means of communication with the outside world, and script-wise we're living in the situation 24-hours a day."

However, no horror film set would be complete without tales of ghosts and curses, and even those on the shoot who aren't superstitious seems to have an odd tale to tell.

"I haven't experienced anything weird, other than the general weirdness that is the film-making process," says Fairbank. "But one or two people have heard and seen strange things. We had a hurricane scare two weeks back, and one of the producers, while cycling around at dusk,

saw a crow caught in power-lines, right in its death throes, and stopped to film it.

"Literally a fraction of a second after he'd remounted his bike and started to pedal away, there was an almighty crack and the branch of a tree that would have killed him fell millimetres behind his bike. Personally, I take a pragmatic view of these things. I mean, I lost a belt last week. I'd definitely put it in my bag, but then it disappeared. However, I later found it lurking under my duvet cover, so that was that mystery solved..."

John, who's been working as caretaker of Osea Island since the beginning of 2014, has even more macabre tales to share. He reveals that the island operated as a torpedo boat base for naval forces during World War I, adding that the island's clubhouse where he cooks for visitors was once a chapel used for storing dead sailors.



He also speculates that the island was once a sprawling Saxon burial ground. But it's the manor house that really gives John the creeps.

"After dark and in the middle of winter, when there are few people on the island, it becomes a strange place," he says, semi-Jack Torrance-like. "Personally, I don't like the feel of the manor house, and there have been a few weird events. Once, I was trimming the hedges in the garden, and all day I could hear my name being called out. But there was nobody there. And another time a colleague said he saw me in the garden, but at the time I was on the other side of the island!"

But while such experiences are anecdotal, one strange happening during the production of *Writer's Retreat* was caught on camera. And apparently the crew still have it.

"The creepiest thing that happened was the figure in the window which the crew caught on camera in the manor house," says producer Lucy Selwood. "The crew are convinced that it wasn't a real person because of the window's positioning; we should have only been able to see the body from its waist up, but people were saying they could see a lot more of the body, like it was floating in the air..."

When asked if they might keep this odd moment in the film, Lucy laughs. "Well, when we heard about the incident, we asked Diego about this unnatural figure he'd filmed and his response was simply, 'Oh, don't worry about that, it's nothing we can't remove in postproduction.' He didn't care that he may have filmed something weird, he was only concerned that his film wouldn't be affected!" **B**

Writer's Retreat will be released in 2015. For news stay tuned to [@WritersRetreat](#) on Twitter, and [Facebook.com/WritersRetreatFilm](#)

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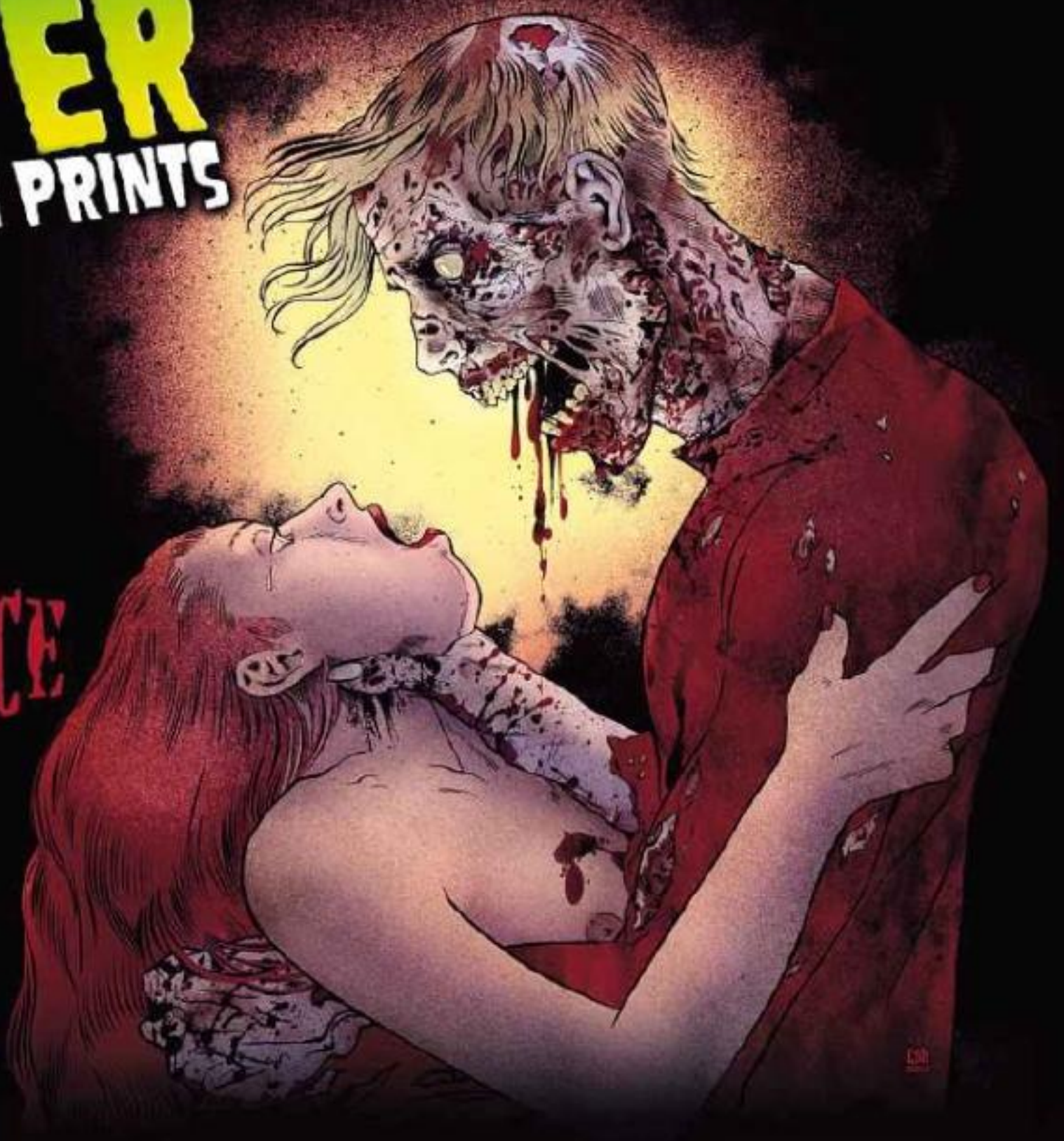
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ALWAYS CONSULT A PROFESSIONAL

ME SO HORNY!

Join *Bizarre* as we watch the UK's premier body modder, Mac 'Dr Evil' McCarthy, install a pair of transdermal horns...

Although *Bizarre* has brought you the hottest body modification news and features in recent years, we've never been present during a live procedure. But thanks to Mac 'Dr Evil' McCarthy, who invited us to

Wolverhampton to watch him at work, we've now had the privilege of seeing a pair of transdermal horns being installed – in the flesh.

"Two types of horns are popular in the world of body modification," Mac tells *Bizarre*. "First there are subdermal horns, in which objects are inserted beneath the skin to create lumps.

However, with transdermals – such as the ones I'm doing today – a little post comes through the surface of the skin, and when the client is fully healed they can attach horns, spikes or whatever they like to these. Using these external posts, you can make it look as if you have real devil horns growing out of your head." →



**"USING TUBULAR METAL
RODS, I MAKE BAGGY
POCKETS IN MY CLIENT'S
SKIN
TO INSERT THE
TRANSDERMAL IMPLANTS"**

GETTING THE HORN

Body mod specialist and master piercer Mac has appeared in *Bizarre* many times over the years, and we've showcased his stunning scarification in several issues. But while Mac has become a vital part of *Bizarre's* DNA, he was in the modding business long before our wretched magazine was born...

"I started out around 20 years ago," he says. "I was interested in tattoos and piercings, but I was also fascinated by the body and started to read a lot about biology and how the body works. So I got some training and fell into a career that I have a natural talent for."

"I pierced for a few years, but after seeing some body mod procedures in the US and Europe I decided to push myself in that direction. After 10 years of piercing I really started exploring body mods, and came into it at the right time. Luckily my work spoke for itself, and I was able to establish a good reputation."

As well as scarification and implants, Mac offers other mods such as branding and ear shaping. And while there are a lot of egos in the insular world of tattoos and body modification, Mac is refreshingly humble and passionate about his work.

"I feel really lucky to be in the position I'm in," he tells *Bizarre*. "I've built my business up from scratch, and I've had good, helpful people around me all the way."

"When I started out, I had to do piercing part-time while I was working in a full-time job, as it was impossible to make a living from it in those days. Then I got made redundant, and I decided to take a risk and make body modification my life's work. So I founded a studio, built up a client base, and was astounded by how quickly I managed to get →



STEP-BY-STEP

Dr Evil talks us through the process...

1 "The first stage of this procedure involves a lot of cleaning and measuring. I'm very particular with my marking, and unless I'm 100 per cent confident that the preparation is correct, I won't begin work."

"I start by thoroughly cleaning either side of the forehead, and drawing lines using a marker pen, so that I know exactly where to cut with my scalpel."

"In addition to the cut lines I draw dots to represent the punch holes, which is where the posts will come through the skin."

"This part of the process can take a long time – I want to be sure the transdermal posts will be placed symmetrically, and give my client an opportunity to make sure they're happy with the positioning."



2 "Once the client's forehead is thoroughly cleaned and we're both happy with the positioning of the punch holes, I use a scalpel to carefully make an incision just behind the hairline."

"I use my blade to cut all the way through the skin, until I reach the client's skull. I don't stop until I feel a little scratch on the skull itself – at this point the client will hear the blade touching bone, which can be a strange sensation."



3 "Once I've made an incision, I insert skin elevators into the hole. These tools are tubular rods of different thicknesses, and are inserted beneath the flesh to the point where the transdermal post will poke through the skin."

"I use several elevators, each slightly larger than the last, and they make the skin covering the skull looser. I soon end up with a baggy pocket, into which the transdermal can be inserted."

4 "Once I've got pockets of skin that are sufficiently large to insert the transdermal, I use a biopsy punch to make a hole in the skin, through which the post of the transdermal will poke."

"Although this stage of the process normally goes smoothly, it's the most difficult part as I'm working blind – when I insert the transdermal through the incision I can no longer see it beneath the skin, and I need to carefully work it under the flesh until I reach the point where the post comes through the hole."



5 "Once the post comes through the hole, it's vital that the base-plate of the transdermal is placed flat against the client's skull (see box on right for more details)."

"Then I gently push on the skin, to make sure it's flush with the surface of the cranium. I also need to check there's no fluid beneath the skin, and this can be a challenge as you often get heavy bleeding when you cut the skin in this area."



6 "Once I'm sure the bleeding has stopped, I normally put four to five stitches across the incision, dress the wound, and then repeat the process on the other side of the head. And after that I can send my client on their way, happy with their new transdermals."



IT'S NOT OVER YET!

As with any modification procedure, your body can reject transdermal implants and the work may not last forever. But if you follow the advice of your body modder and look after yourself, your horns could become a permanent fixture...

"With transdermal horns, we try to make the aftercare as basic but effective as possible – and so long as the client follows our advice, they'll be absolutely fine," Mac says.

"With body modification procedures of any sort, some people's bodies will absorb and accept whatever process has taken place, while others won't, and the length of time a mod lasts varies from person to person."

"I did a transdermal mohawk for a client a few years ago, who had four posts placed down the centre of their head, and he's still got it 12 years later. But there are other people I know who've experienced problems with their transdermals after two or three years."

"If your body doesn't want to accept a mod any more, it will try to push it out, like it would with a splinter. When this happens transdermals can start to twist, and when that happens there's no way back."

"With this procedure, you need to get the base-plate of the transdermal flat against the skull – if you do this, it won't go anywhere. But if the transdermal sits in the middle of a layer of tissue and the skin rejuvenates beneath it, it can push the transdermal out. That can take years to happen, but it will eventually give you problems."

"The success of a body modification also has a lot to do with your lifestyle. If you're not healthy, then your body may reject your mod as it's an extra hindrance that it doesn't need. So be healthy and follow your aftercare advice to the letter – and if you do, there's no reason why your mod won't last for years."

**"USING A SCALPEL I CUT
THROUGH THE CLIENT'S SKIN,
UNTIL MY BLADE HITS THEIR
SKULL"**



things off the ground. When I lost my job all those years ago, my parents thought I should get another full-time position and not become a body modder – but now they're glad I stuck to my guns, and they couldn't be more proud."

The chap under Mac's knife in this feature is Peter Carey from Leigh-on-Sea, Essex – a long-time *Bizarre* reader who's been heavily into body modification and piercing for years, and has coveted a pair of transdermal horns for as long as he can remember. And if you think you recognise Peter, you'd be right – he was featured in the 'Vipers' Nest' alt.male models feature in *Bizarre* 205, under the name Pure Hatred.

So take a ringside seat and listen to Mac as he talks us through the process involved in Peter's amazing transformation. See you on the other side... 

**TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
MAC 'DR EVIL' MCCARTHY
AND HIS BODY MODIFICATION
WORK, CHECK OUT THE
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And to see a video of Peter getting his horns installed, stay tuned to [YouTube.com/watchriottv](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=riottv)

**GETTING
THE HORN(S)**



To see Dr Evil installing Peter's transdermals, check out the upcoming video at **Riot TV**
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Following a freak accident, Leo Bonten had to have his leg amputated. But although hospital staff initially refused to give Leo his severed limb, he won the right to take it home and build the world's first leg lamp. Now Leo hopes to sell his creation to cover his medical costs and get back on his feet... →

BRIGHT IDEA



On Saturday 23 July 2012, the sun was shining in Rotterdam, Netherlands, and Leo Bonten was visiting his cousin to watch a football match.

For a laugh, one of his friends tried to push Leo into a kid's paddling pool. But this innocent prank led to tragedy...

"My feet suddenly went from underneath me," Leo tells *Bizarre*. "When I fell, the joker landed on top of me and broke my right leg just beneath the knee. I felt a surge of pain – it was horrible."

Leo was taken to hospital, and it soon emerged he was suffering from acute compartment syndrome – a serious condition that's triggered by heavy bleeding or swelling, and which puts heavy pressure on affected muscles.

"The doctors had to cut my leg open on each side, and this was supposed to ease the pressure,"

Leo says. "They put pins into my bones to try and fix the fracture, and I was hospitalised for three months and admitted to a recovery home for another six."

But as time passed, doctors discovered that there were no signs of bone growth in Leo's broken leg.

"I went to another hospital for a second opinion. There they discovered I was suffering from a severe bacterial infection that had been eating my bones."

After further surgery, Leo's leg was put in a plaster cast, which was awkward to live with. "You can't do anything with a stiff leg," he says. "You can't sit normally at a table or in a car. It's painful to carry such a heavy weight with you."

Eventually a brace was attached to Leo's leg using pins driven through his bones, and he was prescribed morphine to help him deal with the excruciating pain. But when a conversation with

an orthopaedic specialist turned to amputation, Leo decided this was the best action to take.

"My options were to either continue with years of surgery and knee prosthetics which *might* help, or to remove the leg," he says. "By this stage I'd had as much as I could take, and I felt tired. I'd spent nearly 20 months in a wheelchair with my leg fixed in place."

Leo underwent an operation to remove his lower leg, but then experienced severe phantom pain – a sensation common amongst 80 per cent of amputees, where they experience feelings in a body part that's no longer there. "It takes a long time for your brain to get used to the change," he says.

ON A ROAD TO RECOVERY

After the amputation, Leo came up with a plan to use his detached leg to create a lamp. However, his





**"I'M THE
RIGHTFUL OWNER
OF MY LEG, SO I CAN
DO WHAT I WANT
WITH IT!"**



doctors were unwilling to return his severed limb, and insisted it should be destroyed as medical waste.

"I couldn't understand why it was such a problem for them to give me my leg," Leo says. "Other people are allowed to keep their kidney stones or teeth. I've even heard of cancer patients keeping parts of their tumour to remind them of their fight to survive. The hospital thought my decision to turn my leg into a lamp was unethical. But I thought, 'I'm the rightful owner so I can do what I want with it!'"

After doing some research, Leo made contact with Frank van de Goot, a pathologist and former investigator at the Netherlands Forensic Institute, who recently oversaw the identification of victims

at the crash site of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in Ukraine last year.

The pathologist sympathised with Leo, and understood how important it was for him to keep his amputated leg.

"Frank supported me, and said preserving my leg in a lamp would be a brilliant way to help with the grieving process, because you feel like you're in mourning when you lose a limb," Leo says.

Following newspaper coverage about his successful battle to keep his amputated leg, a talented designer called Willem Schaperkötter contacted Leo, and expressed interest in helping him to make his bright idea a reality.

"Willem and I came up with a lamp design," Leo says. "Within a preservative liquid, my leg stands behind bars, like it's in a prison. At the top there are blades shaped like wings, which symbolise my hope to one day walk again. Using a remote control, you can also change the light to different colours."

"For a long time I felt like I was trapped in a dark tunnel - I just wanted to see light at the end of it all. The lamp we designed and built is symbolic of me taking a step towards a brighter future."

Not surprisingly, though, Leo has received mixed reactions to his leg lamp.

"Some people find my lamp macabre, and don't understand why I'd want to be reminded of my →

loss," he says. "People don't realise I remember my accident every morning when I try to get out of bed and stand up. The truth is, I like knowing that I still have my leg after going through so much stress in hospital."

Leo's story was eventually picked up by the media, and was translated into dozens of languages, broadcast on television around the world, and was even discussed at schools and universities. Most significantly, his case was also debated by the government of the Netherlands, which discussed changing the law to allow amputated limbs to be returned to their legal owners.

TOUGH TIMES AHEAD

Following the amputation, Leo was fitted with a poorly-designed fake leg, but he soon discovered that superior prosthetics are available that imitate natural movements almost perfectly.

"With this type of prosthetic technology, I'd be able to do much more," Leo says. "I could even run or play sports. Sadly, however, these prosthetics

**"MY
LEG STANDS
BEHIND BARS,
LIKE IT'S IN A
PRISON"**

cost a lot of money, and my insurance won't cover this."

Worse, after being out of work for so long due to his injury, Leo's finances have become hard to manage.

"Not only was I unable to pay my rent, but I struggled getting out of my flat as there was no elevator in the building," he says. "My bathroom was no longer suitable for my needs, and the medical bills kept piling up."

Although Leo never intended to sell his lamp, he now believes that flogging his creation could be his best chance of clearing his debts and investing in new prosthetics that would change his life.

A journalist helped Leo to create a listing for his lamp on eBay, but the auction – which had a starting bid of more than 100,000 Euros – was removed as it conflicted with the site's terms and conditions surrounding the sale of human body parts. But Leo still had private offers.

"Someone seemed serious about paying 70,000 Euros for it, but in the end he didn't go for it and the sale fell through," he sighs.

Leo still plans to sell his leg lamp, and hopes it will attract the attention of someone with a taste for the macabre.

"I think it's a unique item that would look great in an office or as a part of someone's collection of oddities," he says. "It may sound stupid, but I'd like it if a gangster bought the lamp to intimidate people who don't pay their debts!"

"I'll sell the lamp for whatever price I can get," Leo continues. "I want my amputated leg to help pay for a good quality prosthetic. I have all the documents to prove the sale is legal, as well as a professional box to protect the lamp during shipping. Ideally, I'd love to accompany the lamp and meet the buyer. It would be a nice way of saying goodbye."

Ultimately, Leo hopes selling his leg lamp will be a form of closure. "It would be a good way for me to handle my loss," he says. "The main thing is being able to do what I want with it, including selling it if I so choose. If I wasn't broke, maybe I'd keep the lamp forever – but whatever happens, it will be my choice!"

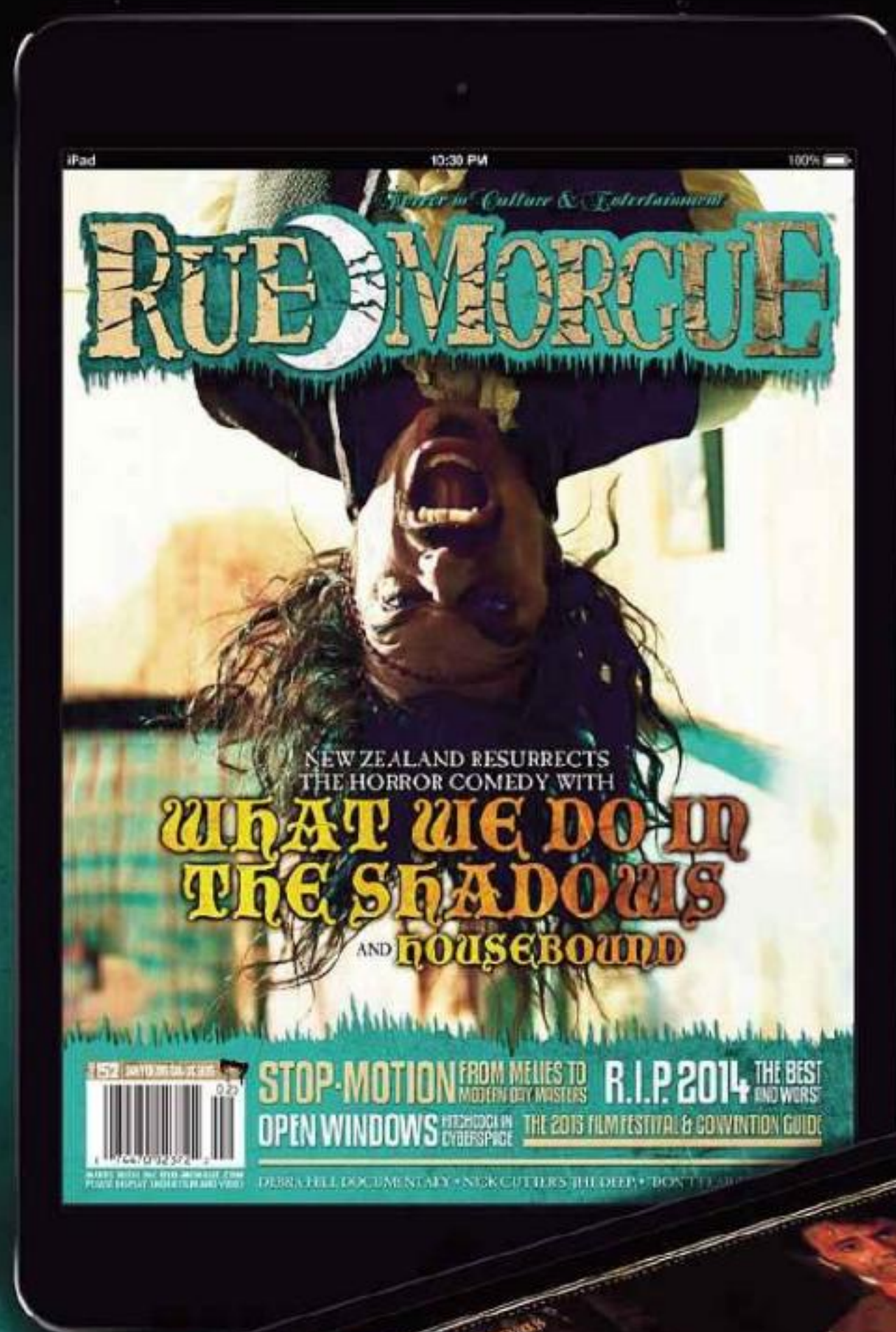
If you'd like to contact Leo about purchasing the lamp, you can get in touch via [Facebook.com/leo.bonten](https://www.facebook.com/leo.bonten) or by emailing Syclon@live.nl – but please *only* contact Leo if you plan to make a serious offer



PICTURE: MARIEKE DE LORCIN / MARIEKELOUJUNL

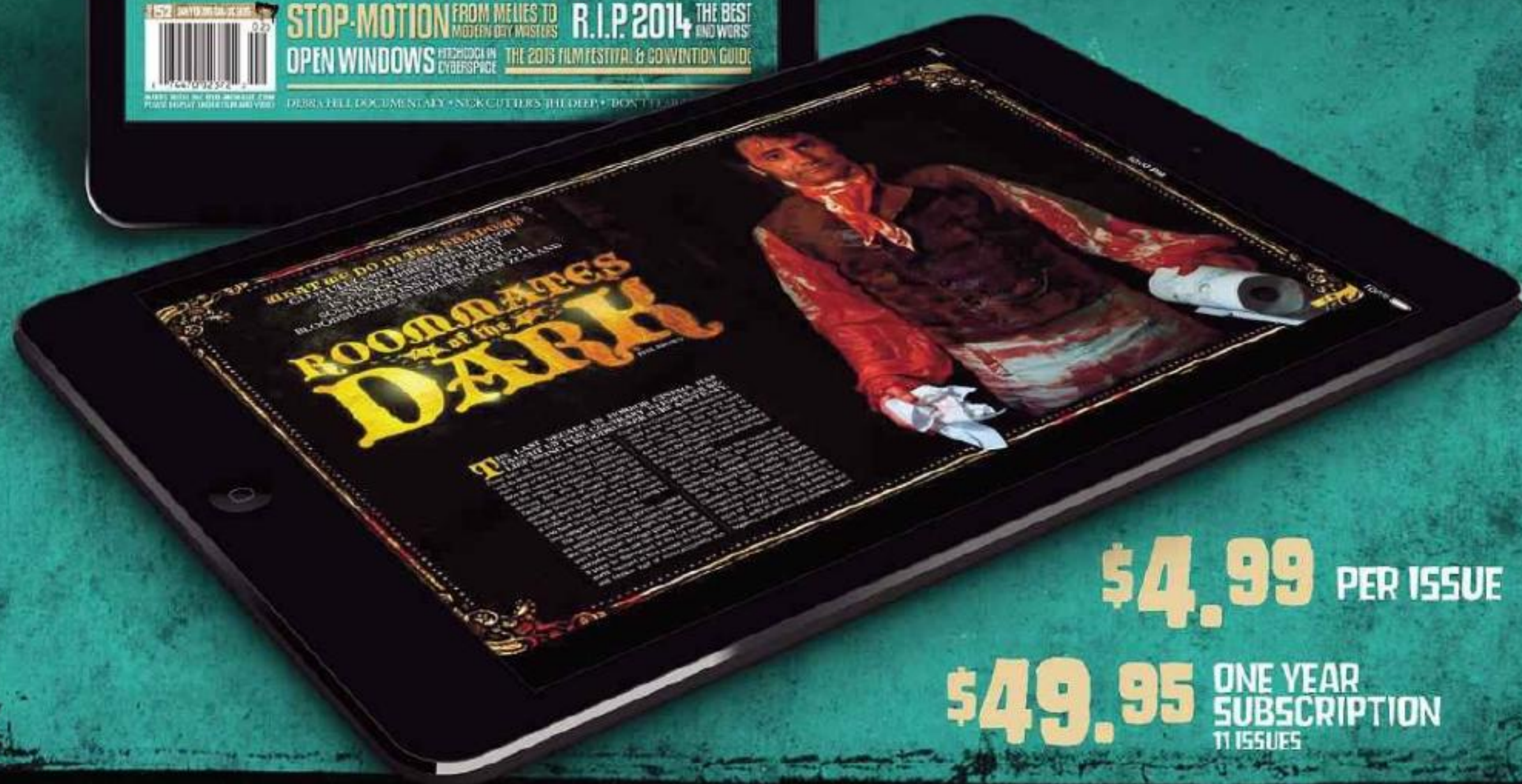
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ENTER THE DRAGON LADY

Get ready for the story of **Eva Baphomet Medusa**; the transgender revolutionary and real-life dragon lady who found affinity with Lucifer and the western diamondback rattlesnake, and who now spends 'its' time dispelling body mod stereotypes...

WORDS **STEPHEN DAULIREY** / @STEVEYKITTEN
PICTURES **ATTIC WONDERLAND**; **RIDINGS PHOTOGRAPHY**

Eva Baphomet Medusa was born Richard Hernandez in 1961, in a small town close to Phoenix, Arizona.

The son of immigrant parents, Richard's childhood was tumultuous; his parents separated when he was four, and he was subsequently abandoned by his mother and stepfather in a forest full of rattlesnakes at the age of five, before being rescued and raised by his maternal grandparents in South Texas.

After moving to Houston in 1979, Richard forged a white-collar career and became vice president of one of the nation's largest banks. But in 1997 – not long after the birth of his son – he was diagnosed with HIV and everything changed. Before long, Richard had ditched his career to embark on one of the most remarkable and radical body modification journeys known to man.

A Capricorn by birth, Richard first set about transforming himself into the mythical half-man,

half-goat Satyr, and in 2000 changed his name legally to NoMan Pan.

In 2007, NoMan Pan (pictured left) made further modifications to morph into a "venomous serpent dragon" – a combination of Adam, Eve, and the biblical serpent that tempted them.

Later, in 2010 – following the death of his beloved male partner of 20 years – NoMan Pan announced plans to fulfil a "life-long dream", and release the woman that had raged inside him for 50 years. Soon, Eva Medusa was born...

Currently a pre-op transsexual and living as an artist on a farm on the US East Coast, Eva says her (or "it", as it prefers) mission is to make art for charity, raise awareness of HIV / AIDS, fight transgender hate crime, and

educate others on what it's like to live as both a modified creature and a transgendered woman.

Eva no longer considers itself to be human – it now classifies itself as a reptile – and is one of the most unique individuals to ever feature in the pages of *Bizarre*. →

Eva Baphomet Medusa showing off her piercing dragon eyes in December 2011. "I've feminised so much since then," she / it says







When did your metamorphosis begin?

My first transformation was from a non-modified person into the Satyr.

I came from a broken family, and my early life was filled with disappointment, abuse and neglect.

As a child I was moved by reading *The Odyssey* by Homer, especially when Odysseus escaped the Cyclops by claiming his name was 'NoMan'. As a child I was rejected by all the men in my life, and told that no man would ever love me. So from that moment I became NoMan as well.

After I left my corporate career I legally changed my name to NoMan Pan, and in 2000 I had horn implants in my forehead, which are symbolic of the angel Lucifer with whom I shared a close affinity ever since reading the Bible.

Like Lucifer I was an unwanted outcast, and I became an incarnation of the most beautiful angel that God had ever made. My attraction and love for Lucifer remains strong to this day.

When did you decide to become the Dragon Lady?

In 2007 I began my metamorphosis into a reptilian creature by getting subdermal brow implants.

In December 2010 I began to shed my human skin by replacing it with the scales and colours of the western diamondback rattlesnake, which is found in South Texas. While the western diamondback is deadly, I revere it as a symbol of strength, patience and beauty – attributes that I adopted into my own being, and which shape my soul and character.

At present about 90 per cent of my body is covered in snake scale outlines. In 2011 I began shading my facial scales, and I also had my sclera tattooed, which gives me my green dragon's eyes.

In August 2014 I had my tongue bifurcated (split), and also had the first stage of my ear-reduction and reshaping, and in September of 2014 I started shading my sublabial scales (under the lip).

My male-to-female transition began on New Year's Day 2012, when I replaced my male clothes with women's clothes.

In October the same year I began HRT (Hormone Replacement Therapy). As my body began to change shape, my facial features became more slender, my skin became smooth and soft, the shape of my lips became feminine, and my hips widened. I've also lost most of my body fat, including my ugly love handles, and my breasts have developed into a B-cup, all naturally with the help of hormones.

When I see photos of myself today, I'm amazed. I can hardly believe that used to be a man.

Can you describe your affinity with dragons and reptiles?

When my mother and stepfather left me in the darkness of the woods, I felt close to the western diamondback rattlesnake, which inhabited the area I was abandoned in.

This beautiful serpent is hated, feared, misunderstood and killed by man without reason – and in the same way that I longed to be like Lucifer, I also wanted to be like my favourite snake.

My initial plans were to transform into a rattler, but in 2011 I became estranged from my son, and I was devastated. My son and I had a close

relationship for 16 years, and his absence from my life left a huge void.

But one day I received a message from my friend Goetia in Germany, who said that her three-year-old son had seen an image of me on Facebook and asked, "Mommy, who's that?" Goetia replied, "That's my friend Eva from Texas." After looking at more photos of me, her son said, "Mommy, she's different. She looks like a dragon and I love dragons!" And as he said this, he grabbed hold of the computer screen and kissed my photo.

In that single act of kindness, a three-year-old child christened me the Dragon Lady, and gave me a message that I should proceed with my transformation. That was three years ago, and my friend's son still doesn't want to have a light on in his room at night because he believes I'm his dragon, and I'll protect him in the dark.

What reactions do you get to your appearance?

When I first got the horns, 99 per cent of people who saw me in public called me the devil and thought I was evil.

One time a lady on a bus in Houston tried to perform an exorcism on me! I've also had people pray for my salvation, and preachers chase me down the street. Other people laughed and made derogatory remarks, but those who knew me loved how I had the balls to get my horns.

When I started my metamorphosis into the dragon and my male-to-female transition, 99.9 per cent of the reactions I received from strangers were positive. People ask if they can touch my face, and some individuals tell me that I'm beautiful, and that they can see nothing but good in my heart. My favourite comments include being told that I look like a fairy tale creature, and at a tattoo convention last year a lady broke down when she saw me and said, "You're beautiful and I love you". I now have a huge following on Facebook – people in over 50 countries follow my journey.

What amazes me most is how many parents bring their kids to meet the Dragon Lady. In 2013 at a tattoo convention, Gina and Jason McGoldrick introduced me to their beautiful daughter, Cadence, who's in a wheelchair after being diagnosed with





“MY GOAL IN LIFE IS TO COMPLETELY SHED ALL MY HUMAN ATTRIBUTES, AND TRANSFORM INTO A REPTILIAN, FEMALE CREATURE”

FOXG1 syndrome (a condition characterised by impaired development and structural brain abnormalities). When I squatted down beside her, Cadence smiled and put her hand on mine. Now my mission also includes raising FOXG1 awareness, and helping those living with the condition get medical care and equipment, and to help find a cure.

What further changes will you make to complete your metamorphosis?

The fact that I'm a pre-op trans woman means a great deal to me. Being both male and female, I feel as if I've achieved true nirvana, hence my middle name, Baphomet (an occult deity with both male and female anatomy).

My goal is to shed all my human attributes and become a reptilian, female creature.

In terms of mods, I plan to reduce my ears and point them to include a ridged outer edge. I'll have my tongue bifurcation corrected, so that the split is straight and symmetrical, and – if possible – have the sides pointed.

I'm also planning to change the shape of my head, and use implants to make my chin protrude. My septum will be deviated, and my teeth will be

removed – with the exception of my fangs – and I'll get plates so that I can chew food.

My hands will be tattooed to look like claws, and my tongue and gums will also be stained.

As for my male-to-female transition, I plan to get full reassignment surgery and say goodbye to 'Mr Bojangles' – I can't wait for the day when I have a vagina! I'll also remove all my body hair using electrolysis, except for the hair on my head.

Has the body mod community been supportive?

I've had great support, and I'm considered to be an icon twice over – once as NoMan Pan, and now as Eva Baphomet Medusa.

Maria Jose Cristerna (the vampire lady of Mexico – see *Bizarre 178*) is in my eyes one of the most beautiful creatures on the planet. She's one of my biggest role models, and we're friends on Facebook. Maria is from the land of my fathers, Mexico, so we share a lot of cultural ties. I feel privileged to have Maria as a friend, and to have her support as I continue my metamorphosis.

Have all your modifications been done in the US?

My body suit is my own creation and design – and while all of my mods have been done in the

US, I have used a team of artists from various countries including Canada, Australia, England, Italy, Spain, Brazil, Russia and Costa Rica. In total, there are over 25 artists on Team Metamorphosis.

Has Dragon Lady become a local celebrity?

I like to keep a low profile and I'm not interested in drawing a lot of attention. However, in 2000 I made a guest appearance on *The Ricki Lake Show*, and I'm also in the movie *Modify* – but I'm just a simple creature who prefers time alone at home with my pets, making art for charity and helping to educate people from all walks of life, not only in person but also in online social forums.

I also love to cook and I make my own hot salsa which I call 'Dragon's Sauce', and I'm writing a recipe book which I plan to sell to raise funds for my gender confirmation surgery.

As for local media, I've stayed under the radar as I wait for the right time to come out – and that time is getting closer. I'm getting ready for a live interview that will be part of a German TV show about body modification, and this will be my world debut as the Dragon Lady. The interview is slated for mid-2015. **18**

More at [Facebook.com/MetamorphosisEvaMedusaLadyDragon](https://www.facebook.com/MetamorphosisEvaMedusaLadyDragon)

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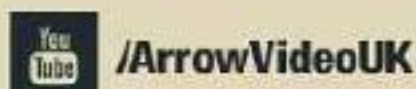
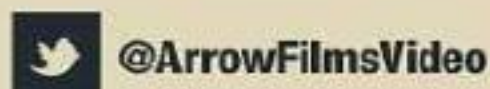
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PSYCHO MOUSE!

Check out *Bizarre's* DVD of the month,
Canadian shocker *Torment*, on **p86**



BIRDMAN

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's a work of movie-making genius!

BUT WHY

ALTHOUGH THE NEW YEAR HAS barely begun, we're going to stick our neck out and say that *Birdman* is destined to be remembered as one of the bleakest – yet most uplifting – comedy dramas of 2015.

In a clever, sardonic move, one-time *Batman* star Michael Keaton plays a washed-up actor who was once famous as the lead in a superhero franchise called *Birdman*, and is attempting to reclaim his past glories

by staging his own Broadway play. And while this premise may not sound like the sort of movie you're used to reading about in dirty old *Bizarre*, in the hands of co-writer / director Alejandro González Iñárritu this scenario is transformed into a mesmerising exercise in the cerebrally weird.

To call Keaton's performance masterful would be an understatement; this is an actor who dives as deep as he can into his own psyche, and

in doing so wrenches out his character's darkest emotions.

The film's exemplary supporting cast – which includes *Fight Club*'s Edward Norton, *The Hangover*'s Zach Galifianakis and Emma Stone from *The Amazing Spider-Man* – also deliver the goods, making *Birdman* an intense and immersive experience. However, these stunning performances are only one element of the film's sweeping appeal, and Iñárritu's brilliantly fluid

direction, which creates the illusion that the film was shot in one long take, is a masterclass in modern film-making.

While Iñárritu was once dismissed by many critics as an overindulgent miserabilist following his downbeat flicks *Amores Perros* and *Biutiful*, the director has finally proved with *Birdman* that he's able to burst out of his (dis)comfort zone, and has created 2015's first genuine must-see.

Billy Chainsaw



THE DUKE OF BURGUNDY

OUT 6 FEBRUARY

A stylish study of a lesbian S&M relationship – but without any nudity, and where all the mucky stuff is hinted at but not shown – *The Duke Of Burgundy* is another triumph for *Berberian Sound Studio* director, Peter Strickland. More arthouse than grubby flesh flick, *Burgundy* examines the extremes of human sexuality without judgement, and is a compelling, fascinating and affecting film.



EX MACHINA

OUT 23 JANUARY

When a programmer is given the chance to visit a mountain retreat belonging to the CEO of the world's largest internet company, he thinks all his birthdays have come at once. But once he's there, he has to take part in a weird experiment where he interacts with the world's first true artificial intelligence, which is housed in the body of a beautiful robot girl.



THE SIGNAL

OUT 13 FEBRUARY

While on a road trip, a group of friends are drawn towards an isolated area, where all hell breaks loose. Stylish and surreal, *The Signal* is high-concept science-fiction where big ideas play second fiddle to genre clichés, which may disappoint anyone looking for explosions and aliens. Stick with it, though, as this ambitious tale is a rewarding watch.



TORMENT

Claustrophobia and creepy cuddly toys come together in Jordan Barker's nightmarish fight for survival...

OUT 26 JANUARY

THE HOME INVASION SUBGENRE gets seriously twisted in this creepy and tense fright ride

When a stepmom is repeatedly snubbed by her new stepson, dad steps in and takes them on a bonding session in an isolated cabin in the woods. But quicker than you can say *The Strangers* – director Bryan Bertino's horror flick with a similar theme – the trio are attacked by a bunch of weapon-wielding weirdos wearing oversized cuddly toy masks.

Director Jordan Barker wastes no time on exposition and hurls viewers

into the nastiness, which gets amped to the max when the snotty kid gets captured and his guardians have to fight to save him.

While there's nothing innovative about the plot of *Torment*, the fact the film is as much about family relationships as it is about nail-biting horror adds weight to the proceedings. And to deliver the terror Barker has cast a fine selection of players, particularly *American Mary*'s Katharine Isabelle whose performance as the ballsy stepmother helps to create edge-of-your-seat drama.

Gorehounds will be sated by the gruesome action which unfolds at a lightening pace, and includes such savoury acts as hooked flesh and electrocution by car battery. And while the gore is good, it doesn't mean *Torment* is lacking in atmosphere, and Barker keeps things creepy using dimly-lit cabins, biting claustrophobia, and the creepy masks worn by the villains.

Ultimately, *Torment* is a fine horror DVD to kick off 2015, and the kind of film that will make you think twice about holidaying in remote places. **Billy Chainaw**





SIN CITY 2: A DAME TO KILL FOR

OUT NOW

Like its predecessor, *A Dame To Kill For* is based on Frank Miller's *Sin City* comicbooks, and is directed by Robert Rodriguez. In terms of its visuals, action and dizzying pace, the controls are set to repeat – but if, like us, you dig Miller and Rodriguez's monochrome vision, violence noir and unrelenting sleaze, that's no bad thing. **BC**



PRITCHARD AND DANTON: THE RISE AND FALLS

OUT NOW

Narrated by Howard Marks, this hilarious documentary tells how skateboarding buddies Matthew Pritchard and Lee Dainton turned best mate stupidity into a piss, shit, violence and vomit-filled worldwide sensation with *Dirty Sanchez*. **BC**



THE DAY THE EARTH CAUGHT FIRE

OUT NOW

Directed by Val Guest, who also made *The Quatermass Xperiment*, this classic slice of sci-fi cinema sees the USA and Russia simultaneously testing atomic bombs, and sending the earth into a death-spin towards the sun. **BC**



REAL **HORROR** SHOW!



THIS
MONTH:
HONEYMOON

BILLY CHAINSAW

All the latest news from *Bizarre's* free film club, CUT!

“ CUT! is the *Bizarre* film club that I organise and host once a month in the allegedly haunted confines of London's creepiest venue, the Horse Hospital. Although I'm not superstitious myself, who am I to doubt claims that a ghostly nag regularly canters through the venue and disappears through the back wall, or that you can hear the incessant clip-clop of hooves in darkest hours of the morning? Anyway, I digress...

As you'd expect from anything associated with the world's most controversial magazine, we don't screen slushy romcoms or boring documentaries at CUT! Instead, what we're about is bringing you an eclectic selection of the most strange, horrifying, hilarious and ultra-violent flicks doing the rounds, each of them an exclusive preview of a yet-to-be released – either theatrically or on DVD / Blu-ray

– title. And not only do we give you all this for FREE, but we also throw in a gratis drink (alcoholic or otherwise) to neck while you watch, *and* all attendees get entered into a free prize draw to bag a handful of DVDs.

At the most recent CUT! we screened the brilliantly creepy and suspenseful *Honeymoon*.

In this dramatic chiller, *Game Of Thrones'* Rose Leslie and *Cockneys vs Zombies'* Harry Treadaway play newlyweds on holiday in a remote cabin in the woods.

One night, the young husband finds his wife naked and disoriented in the woods, with no evidence as to how or why she got there, and it's clear something nasty has happened. This shocking event is the beginning of a downward spiral, in which paranoia and weirdness conspire to tear the couple apart.

Warning – do not go see *Honeymoon* if you're looking for a quick splash of gore. Instead, the film

is a slow-burning chiller, and its success is largely down to Leslie and Treadaway, who elicit viewers' sympathy for their characters' individual nightmares.

Director Leigh Janiak and co-writer Phil Graziadei have created a deeply affecting horror drama, with a harrowing sting-in-the-tale ending you won't forget for a long time. *Honeymoon* is not an easy ride, but it's a rewarding scare fest that you'll end up talking about for hours in the pub afterwards – at least that's what happened at CUT!

Honeymoon will be released on DVD on 19 January 2015

”



IF YOU LIKE **HONEYMOON**, YOU MIGHT LIKE **ALIEN ABDUCTION**

One of the best found-footage movies ever released, *Alien Abduction* follows the fortunes of a family camping in the Brown Mountain region of North Carolina, who have a run-in with extraterrestrials. Riffing on real-life urban myths, *Alien Abduction* starts slowly, but as soon the aliens appear it shifts up several gears and loud, unearthly noises and disorientating camera work conspire to fuck with your brain. And if you have the nerve to stick around until the end, the climax is as thrilling as it is unnerving.



WHO'S THIS?

Billy Chainsaw is *Bizarre's* Film And DVD Editor, and he also runs our regular FREE film club in London, CUT! (cast your eyes right to see what sick treats Billy has in store at the next screening).

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DUDE LOOKS LIKE A L

Actor and film-maker Christopher Logan explains the concept behind *dr.a.g. bookthefilm* edition, a decadent tome celebrating the world's glitziest drag queens...

CHRISTOPHER LOGAN



OUT NOW

RAISING THE CASH

to make a left-field film is never easy, unless your best chum happens to be a movie-loving oil baron with tons of loose change in his back pocket.

However, actor Christopher Logan, whose credits include *Tron: Legacy*, found an ingenious way to fund his forthcoming flick set in the drag world: he released a lavish, coffee table book filled with the world's biggest cross-dressing talent.

Although *dr.a.g.* briefly appeared in 2012, this new, expanded *bookthefilm* edition features extra content, and is teeming with lavish shots of gloriously camp guys who dress as ladies for a living. It also features the work of photographers who've been featured in *Bizarre*, including Austin Young of the gender-bending 'Tranimals' series.

Logan, a handsome, former drag performer himself who also played a cross-dresser in the 2004 crime comedy *Connie And Carla*, was keen to tell *Bizarre* more about his flamboyant project...

The book was originally published in 2012. How does this version differ from the original edition?

The *bookthefilm* edition has all 160 pages from the original, plus an additional 20 pages of new faces and photos including Puerto Rico's colourful diva divine, Yara Sofia, Australia's singing idol, Courtney Act, and the 'crazy club kid glam' of New York, Maddelynn Hatter. The project has now become a series, and we'll be releasing a follow-up next spring featuring top burlesque stars from around the world. What can you tell us about the film that you're raising money for?

It's a crisis of identity that takes place in the most glamorous arena there is: the drag world. I don't want to give too much away, but I will say it's a story with heart that shows how and why we chose to be who we are. I've loved drag films before, but have found they are always been a bit too "let's look at the freak show". We're beyond that now and we can finally have a story with heart, where the drag isn't the focus of the story but simply an element that brings it to life.

How often have you performed in drag yourself?

I performed in the Vancouver scene and toured for five years in the late 1990s. But now I'm a film-maker with a grand respect for what drag is and can be, and how it can help us get to where we need to be, both personally and as a people.

Is drag still an underground and misunderstood culture, or is it more accepted now?

It's much more mainstream due to reality TV. It still gets misunderstood, but everything does. At least drag now has a spotlight, and people can see the performers and, more often, get to know them and grow along with them. As far as I know, *dr.a.g.* is the first mainstream book on the subject, and it's been widely embraced by hair salons, make-up artists, and people who love photography. It isn't a dissection of why we do drag; it is a celebration of top artists and fabulous photography.

Who are some of your favourite performers in the book?

Miss Coco Peru is one of the best



PICTURE: RAYE SUNSHINE BY KATE MCCLAREN

comediennes in the business – she's a monologist and worships at the altar of telling a story. Courtney Act, who currently appears in American Apparel ads, struck fame on Australia's version of *American Idol*. He first made an impression as a boy (Shane Jenek), but then returned the following year as his female counterpart. You asked about drag being more accepted, and this is an example of an audience cheering something they may not have accepted a few years ago. The final page of the book is devoted to Jim Bailey, a legend of the drag world, who has performed for the British royal family and featured in over 70 television shows and films.

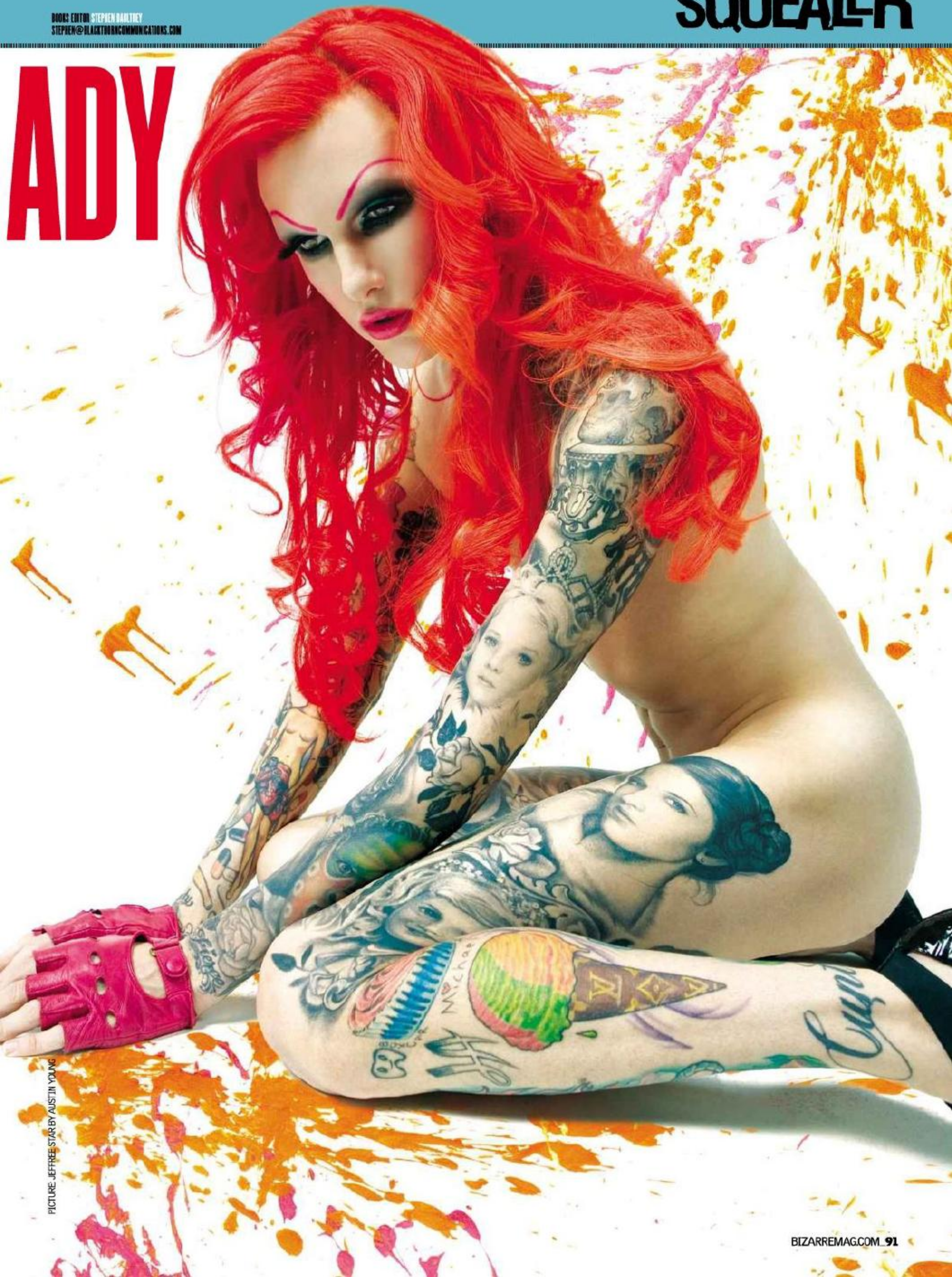
Any interesting stories behind the book? At the book launch in West Hollywood, there were two 14-year-old lesbians who wanted to get a copy of the book, but they were too young to enter the club. So they paid a bouncer to get them a copy. Then they sat on the corner outside the bar, poring through it for hours, arm in arm. It was a soft, sweet moment to go with all the glamour. **Step-hen Poultry Von Feathers**

dr.a.g. bookthefilm edition by Christopher Logan (author) and Mamio Marais (designer) is out now, available through bookstores and direct from Bookthefilm.com



PICTURE: MAXI SHIELD BY MAGNUS HASTINGS

ADY



SEX AND HORROR

THE ART OF EMANUELE TAGLIETTI

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COMPILED BY YAHYA EL-DROUBIE



OUT MARCH 15
FROM DREAMLIKE
Spaghetti Westerns to bloody giallo thrillers, the Italians have always had an uncanny knack for stamping a unique twist on bizarre entertainment. And when it comes to comicbooks, the Mediterranean masters of the macabre exhibited equally idiosyncratic aptitude.

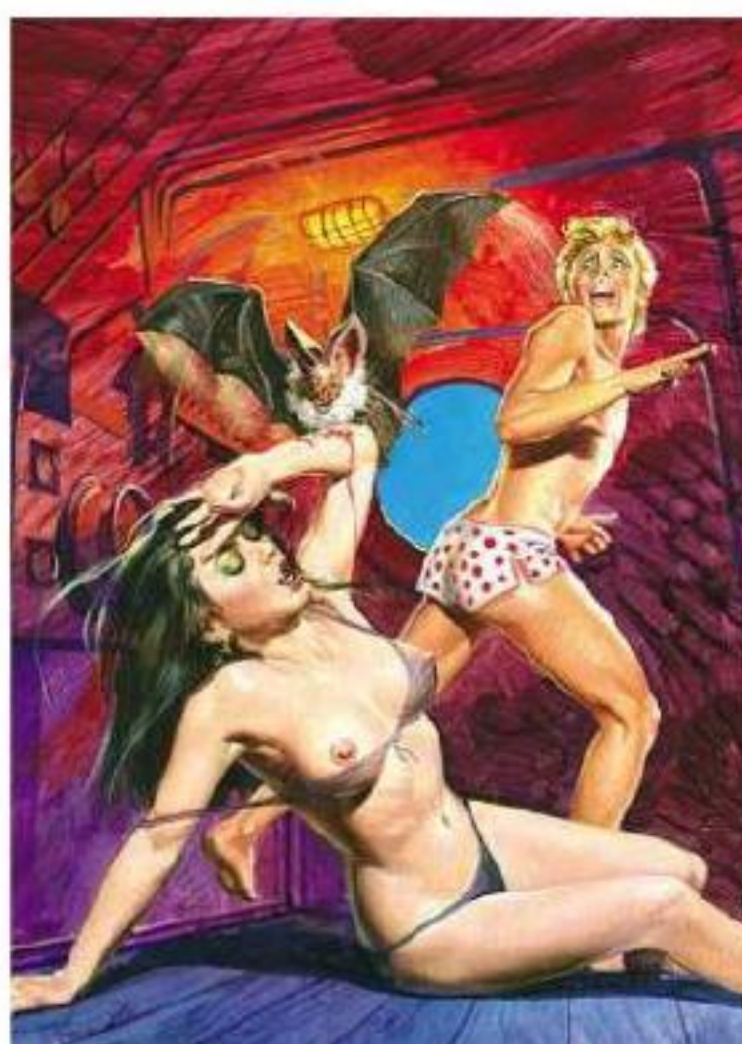
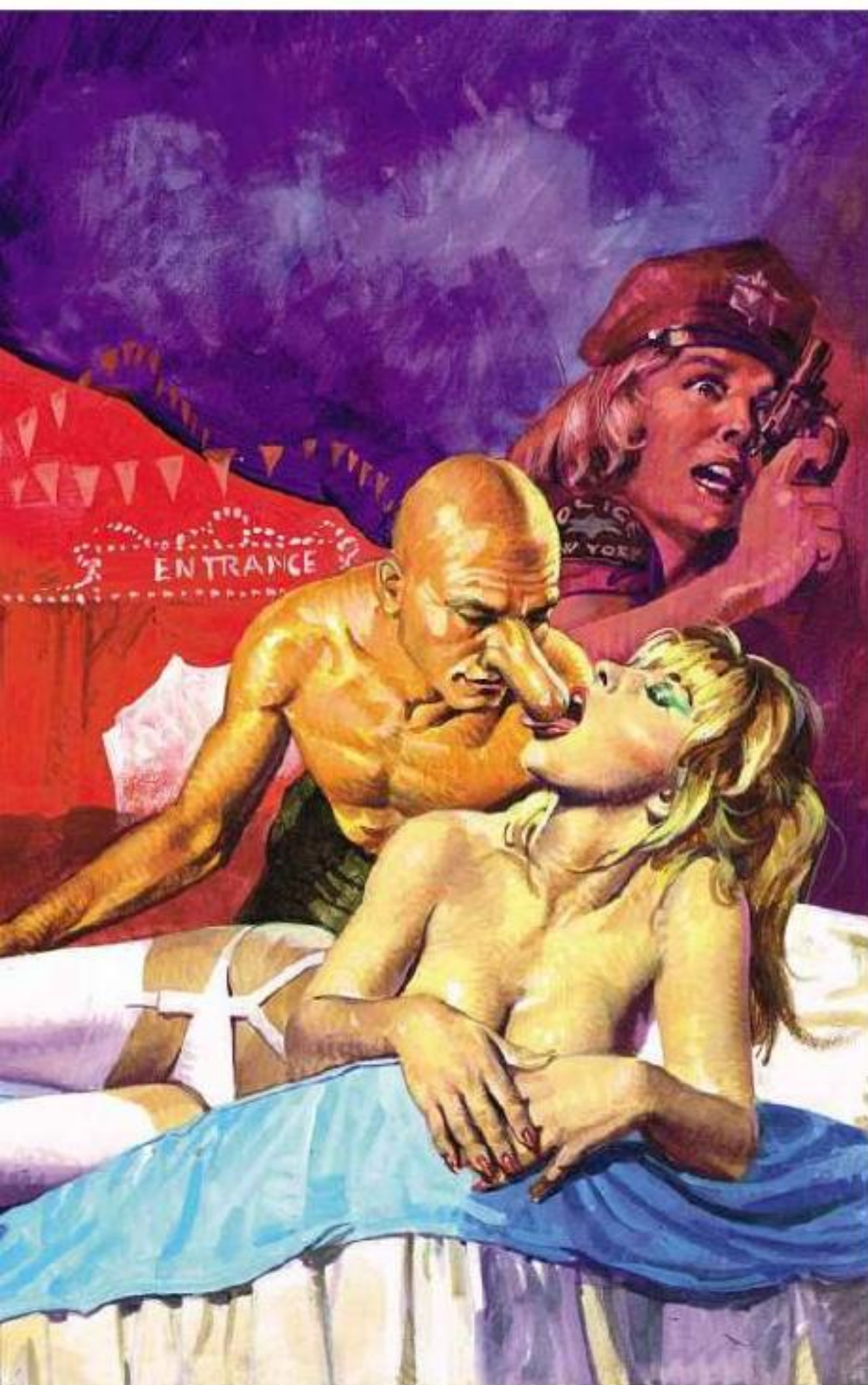
'Fumetto' is the name given to Italian comics that experienced their

golden age in the 1970s and 80s, paralleling a time when Dario Argento and Lucio Fulci were also establishing Italy as a potent force in horror flicks.

One of the most important fumetti artists was Emanuele Taglietti. Throughout his career, the former movie interior designer painted more than 500 comicbook covers for such works as *Zora The Vampire*, *Sukia*, *Mafia* and *44 Magnum*. The artist's lurid, emphatic designs often paired near-naked nymphs / damsels with iconic, Universal-inspired monsters, including vampires, swamp creatures

and mummies. It was pulp awesomeness channelled through a warped Italian vision.

Releasing in March, *Sex And Horror: The Art of Emanuele Taglietti* exhibits dozens of the artist's incredible paintings, while discussing the maestro's otherworldly techniques. Back in the 1970s, some of these books were banished from newsstands in Taglietti's homeland by outraged censors. In reality, these moral crusaders probably wanted to keep the comics for themselves. And who'd blame them, eh?



DEAD FUNNY

ROBIN INCE (EDITOR) JOHNNY MAINS (EDITOR)



OUT NOW

For this short story collection, which feels somewhat like a competition, well-known British comedians were invited to pen their own blackly comic horror tales. Inevitably, the standout yarns come from *The Fast Show*'s Charlie Higson, who riffs screen drunk Oliver Reed with Christopher Lee, and *The League Of Gentlemen*'s Reece Smearsmith whose 'Dog' is like *Hostel* meets *Crufts*!

DEATH AND THE ETERNAL FOREVER

RON ENGLISH



OUT NOW

For further comically macabre reading (albeit of a purely visual variety), this collection of paintings and sculptures from street art king Ron English is both quietly disturbing and uncomfortably amusing. Featuring *Ninja Turtles* reimagined as religious figures and monstrous Ronald McDonalds, it's like an Andy Warhol exhibition being filtered through a bad acid trip.

AUTUMN OF TERROR

PERRY HARRIS, FROG MOODY



OUT NOW

Ever since some self-confessed 'armchair detective' claimed to have deduced the criminal's real identity using DNA evidence, our nation has gone Jack The Ripper batty again (but did we ever really stop, eh?). This graphic novel regales a historically-grounded version of our most famous serial-killing export in a jolly, almost childlike visual style. Short and gripping, it's bugger all like Alan Moore's *From Hell*.

ON SET WITH JOHN CARPENTER

KIM GOTTLIEB-WALKER



OUT NOW

As well as being a successful music photographer, Kim Gottlieb-Walker worked as the official snapper on John Carpenter's most iconic horror films. Collected for the first time are her rare behind-the-scenes photos from *Halloween*, *The Fog*, *Christine* and *Escape From New York*. Essential cult movie reading.

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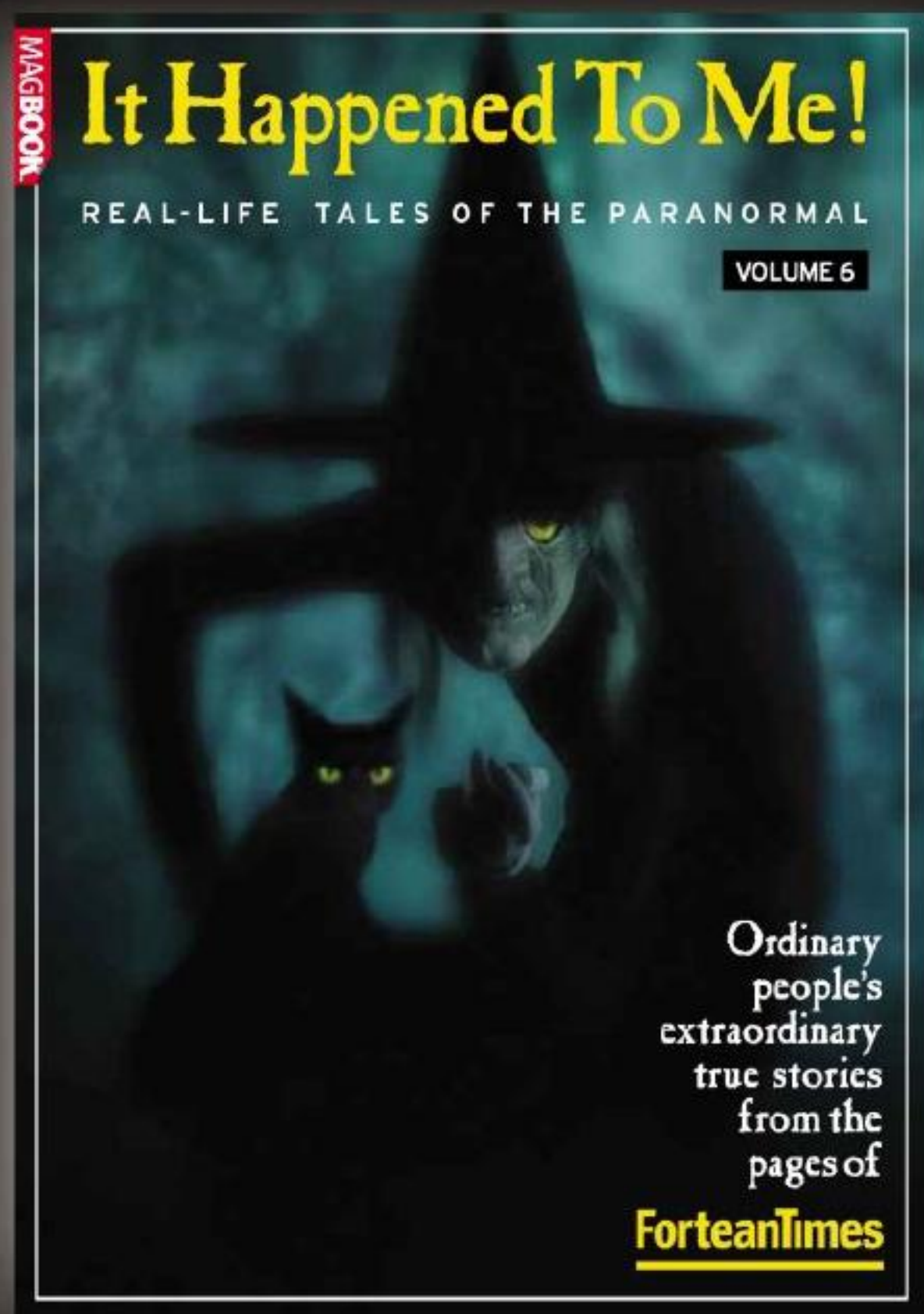
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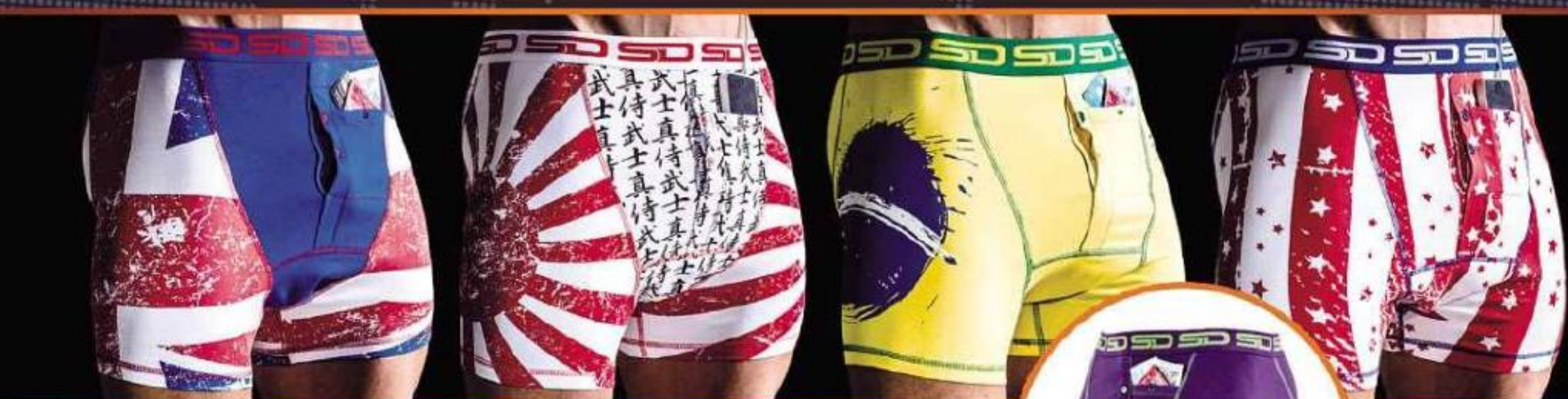
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